

US warns Begin

By Star Staff Writer

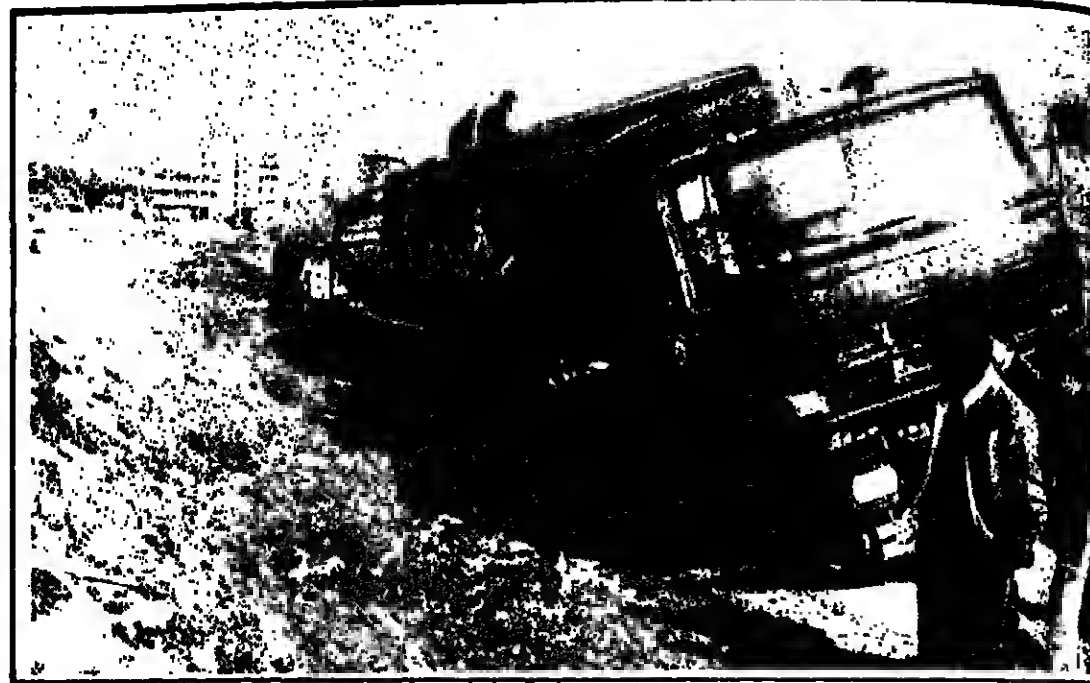
AMMAN -- American Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis has delivered an urgent message of warning from President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz to Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Shamir, Israel Radio reported. The radio, monitored here, said the message spoke of massacres about to take place in the refugee camp Miya Wamiya near Sidon.

President Reagan and Secretary Shultz requested the Israeli officials immediately to order the Israeli army to set up watch and observation points inside the camp to prevent any massacres. Israel will be held responsible for any massacres that might occur in the camp, they were reported as saying.

The radio said that Mr. Begin had requested Chief of Staff Rafael Eitan to intensify patrols in the camp, but it was not known yet whether the orders included setting up observation posts.

The murder of Palestinians were circulated this morning. Sand Haddad's Christian militia erected a wall between the camp and the road, preventing Palestinians from moving from one place to another.

Also reported that armed Jewish settlers from a Bank attacked Arab farmers from Nahalin forced them out of their land. Later, the settlers burned and eradicated hundreds of olive trees.



SOFT SPOT FOR A TRUCK: A 75-tonne diesel fuel tanker of the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company lies overturned in a pool formed by its spilled contents on Wednesday. The mishap occurred on the Wadi Sagre road in Amman when the truck strayed onto the road's shoulder, recently dug by a sewerage contractor and further softened by the storm. (Photo by Hassan Ibrahim)

In Brief

King Hussein will lead the summit conference to convene in New Delhi, The Star delegation of high-ranking officials to accompany the King. Minister of Foreign Affairs Marwan Al-Qasem will participate in the provisional meetings, which will be held on the level of foreign ministers, and will join the Jordanian delegation from 1-11 March 1983. Mr. Qasem is to be accompanied by a delegation consisting of Ambassador Saleh Al-Kaharil, Minister Qasem Al-Ghazawi, Ambassador Saleh Masrawi, Third Secretary Shuqum and Jordanian Ambassador in New Delhi Walid Al-Durra.

AMMAN--A royal decree was issued this week approving the fifth electrical energy loan agreement between Jordan and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. The fund will extend a loan of KD 10 million (about JD 12 million), to be settled in 40 instalments, the first one to be paid in October 1988 and the last one in April 2008. The loan is to help finance the Aqaba thermal power station project, expected to finish in 1986.

PARIS--The majority of the Iranian clergy is hostile to Ayatollah Khomeini's regime, said an exiled clergyman. Ayatollah Jafar Ghandei, who fled Iran a few weeks ago, declared at a press conference that 90 per cent of the Shiite

Iranian clergy was opposed to Khomeini, but has no other way to express hostility than helping the Mujahedeen movement. He indicated that Khomeini was isolated within the Iranian population as well as within the clergy, and explained that the isolation was mainly due to the fact that Khomeini was controlling all the mosques and also the repressive measures against Mullahs who were opposed to the ruling party.

CAIRO--Former Lebanese President Camille Chamoun left for home on Tuesday following a five-day private visit, saying Egypt should return to the Arab fold. In departure remarks carried by the official Middle East News Agency, Chamoun said: "Egypt should regain its Arab League seat for the sake of resolving all inter-Arab differences." An Arab summit conference in 1979 suspended Egypt's League membership, and 17 Arab states, including Lebanon, severed diplomatic relations with Cairo over its peace treaty. Commenting Egypt's opposition to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last June, Chamoun said "There is a strong feeling among the Lebanese people and government in favour of restoring Egyptian-Lebanese diplomatic relations." Chamoun had talks during his visit with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali and Osama Al-Baz, political affairs Director in President Hosni Mubarak's office.

Egyptians take Sharon's move with grain of salt

By Philip Flanagan

Star Cairo Correspondent

CAIRO--Increasingly pessimistic about Israeli policy, Egyptian government officials have not been cheered by the "resignation" of Israel's Defence Minister Sharon.

Egyptian policymakers point out that Mr. Sharon's replacement, Moshe Arens, voted in the Knesset against the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, and previously refused to serve as minister of defence under Prime Minister Begin because of Arens' opposition to Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

"It is worse now," says a senior Foreign Ministry official. "Instead of one hawk now we have two. Arens has been appointed and Sharon remains in the cabinet. Revived of administrative responsibilities, Sharon will be even more able to concentrate on policymaking."

Egypt's largest circulation daily Al-Akhabar newspaper also suspects that Sharon's loss of portfolio will not necessarily mean any loss of influence. "Sharon will practise his full influence from inside the Israeli cabinet through Menachem Begin," Al-Akhabar wrote.

The prestigious Al-Ahram newspaper commented gloomily that in spite of the publication of the Kahan report and the controversy over Sharon's role in the future, "Israel's policy remains the same and the Israeli cabinet remains in office together with the man himself (Sharon). As for his

successor in the defence portfolio, he is worse."

In light of these pessimistic conclusions about the Israeli leadership and its policy, Egyptian officials are inclined to hope for changes in Israeli public opinion. "Our tactic is not to concern ourselves with what is happening inside Israel," said another senior Foreign Ministry official. "The Kahan report is an electric shock in Israel. The magnitude of the shock in Israel if King Hussein agrees to join the peace process will be greater than the shock of the Kahan report."

Egyptian policymakers believe that if Mr. Chairman Arafat and King Hussein can reach an agreement on negotiations, this will have a major impact on Israeli thinking.

Minimising political cost

Before anyone can be convinced to join the peace process, Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon must be well under way. Egyptian officials point out that Israel has "a gentlemen's agreement" with Syria for both to continue their occupation and prevent peace talks that both oppose. One Foreign Ministry official, "if you blame the Israelis for not withdrawing from Lebanon, you blame the Syrians."

"If you blame the Syrians, they blame the Israelis. In this way both sides (think they can) pursue their occupation at minimal political cost to themselves."

US mayors have busy week

AMMAN (Star) -- A group of eight American mayors will leave Jordan on Saturday after a busy week-long visit capped by a trip south to Petra, Wadi Rum and Aqaba.

The mayors arrived with their spouses on 19 February, in an attempt to learn as much as they can about the country by touring it and meeting with Jordanian citizens and officials. Before taking their trip south, they held a long schedule of conferences.

The mayors were chosen by the US Conference of Mayors, to include representative groups from different parts of the United States. Among them is Mayor George Latimer of St. Paul, Minnesota, whose mother was of Lebanese descent.

Mr. Latimer says he knows a few words of Arabic, likes Arabic dishes like "kousa mahabi", and has visited the area before. He is accompanied by his eldest daughter, Faith.

The group also includes Mayor Harry Kinney of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Mayor Richard Arrington Jr. of Birmingham, Alabama; Mayor Thomas Brush of Cincinnati, Ohio; Mayor James M. Inhofe of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Mayor Daniel K. Whitcomb of Fresno, California; Mayor Ted Wilson of Salt Lake City, Utah; and the only woman mayor of the group, Mrs. Ruth Correll of Boulder, Colorado.

Mr. Carol Moody Becker, the staff director of the US

Conference of Mayors, is also in the group. It is Mr. Carl Stover, director of the Jordan Society, who is sponsoring the group's visit. Mr. Stover has been working on the society's programmes, which, he says, aim at enabling "citizens of both countries to learn from one another, preparing the way for lasting associations."

The highlights of the group's visit, says the vice president of the group, are the visit to the Royal Palace, during which he gave them an explanation of the Middle East situation; and the audience they will have with Her Majesty Queen Noor after their return to Aqaba.

The Jordan Society was formed as a result of the Queen's wish to further understanding between peoples of Jordan and the United States. This is the visit that the recently formed society has organized.

The group has also met several government officials including Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh, Minister of Awqaf Kamel Al-Sharif, Minister of Colonies and Territories Affairs Hassan Ibrahim; Maj. Gen. Haniyeh, director of the Royal Medical Services; Mr. Nour Shaqfi, Jordan Valley Authority Vice President; Munther Haddadin and Mr. Farouq Zu'bi of Jordan Television. They also met US Ambassador, Robert

The Jerusalem Star

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Opec's 100 most crucial days

AN INFORMAL mini-Opec conference is likely to be held on Thursday in London following intensive contacts among oil producing countries to avert a price collapse, the Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) reported.

Quoting Al-Sharq Al-Aswat newspaper in Jeddah, Kuna said Saudi Oil Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani is expected to join the talks, which are to decide the size of a price cut to be taken by the Arab Gulf producers.

The Opec price of \$34 for a barrel of Saudi "murker" crude became seriously threatened when North Sea producers slashed

\$3 off their price; and later by a greater drop announced by Nigeria, an Opec member, which shaved \$5.50 off its crude price.

The prospect of a price fixed at \$30 a barrel, and the possibility of a further sharp drop, have sent shock waves around the world. Reactions vary widely as some experts predict bankruptcy of developing countries and international financial collapse, and others look forward to an end to the world recession.

Star Roving Correspondent ROBERT POULIOT filed the following overview from Cyprus:

September 1980: As usual, it was raining in Brussels.

In a small restaurant, Na'im Khader, the best PLO representative in Europe until he was shot nearly at point-blank a year later; his wife Bernadette, and I were comparing notes from our Middle East crystal ball.

And what we saw was appalling. I was just back from North America on my way to Vienna where 28 finance, foreign and oil ministers were gathering to celebrate Opec's 20th anniversary and put the final touch to a long term strategy.

Needless to say, the strategy was never implemented.

Through the crystal ball, the forecast was grim. In a private meeting held at the New York headquarters of the UN, Claude Cheysson (who was still in the Common

Market Secretariat before becoming France's foreign minister) had stressed that brand-new oil consumption patterns around the world would transform Opec into a spent force by 1985-86. In short, the oil weapon, he elaborated, would gradually fade away as a diplomatic lever in the Middle East.

For his part, Na'im was just back from an extensive briefing in Beirut. And there, at the PLO headquarters, the thinking was that a Palestinian state had to be established before the end of the 1980s. Otherwise, the dream of a Palestinian entity could vanish for ever. And one of his greatest fears was to see a new Arab political and financial bloc emerging from the Gulf area, which could break away either from the Arab-European dialogue or Opec to set its own negotiation guidelines.

Play in four acts

Well, the next 100 days will tell us whether this gloomy scenario which has been right so

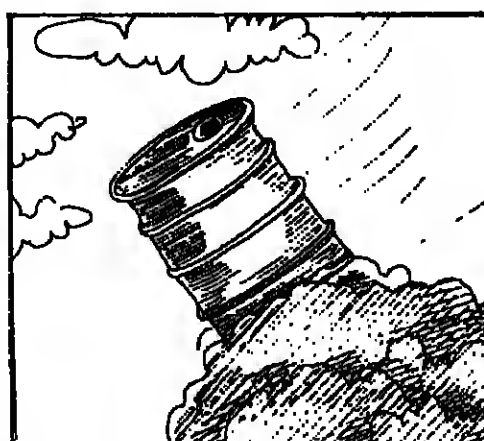
far - will reach its end. My bet is that we are all in for a spectacular shock in the years ahead.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has only three months - in what is expected to be the worst period for oil consumption around the world - to put the market in order and avoid the most bloody price war since its birth.

The play is in four acts. Act I is due this week. Facing a daunting ultimatum from Mexico, Opec must reach a package agreement before Friday, including the marker or reference price, the price margins or differentials to take into account different quantities of crude among producers as well as their proximity to markets or freight rates; and disciplined production planning.

Failure to agree on anyone of those points would tear Opec apart. Two scenarios are possible:

Continued on page 24



OIL ON THE BRINK

Gulf oil producers float through crisis: Page 6

Opec Fund retains its old resources: Page 6

Oil shake-up felt in London: Page 7

US still misunderstands Opec: Page 9

Also in this week's Star, read about a European Extravaganza, Page 3; Jordan's dams fill with water, Page 5; Middle East move expected from Moscow, Page 10; a great time for kids at the Haya Arts Centre, Pages 12-13.

Executive Committee member restates position

'The PLO cannot be replaced'

By Lella G. Deeb

Star Staff Writer

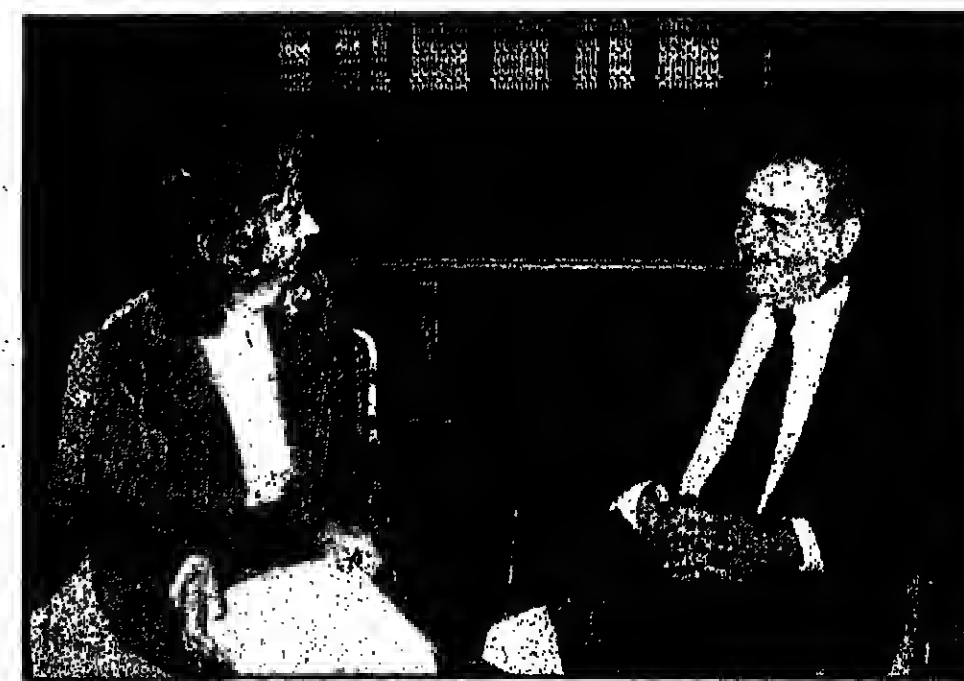
AMMAN--Former US President Carter should not visit the Middle East before the Americans "prove that they are sincere and true," says PLO Executive Committee member Jamal Sourani.

Commenting in an interview with The Star on Mr. Carter's tour of the region, Mr. Sourani added that he asks Americans to abide by UN Security Council resolutions 508 and 509, and "ask the Israelis to withdraw from Lebanon. Then and only then will we believe that they are sincere in their message to implement peace, just peace, which observes the Palestinian people's right for self-determination, repatriation and statehood on Palestinian national soil."

Sourani, also a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC), was asked about different aspects of the recent PNC meeting in Algiers. On Jordanian-Palestinian confederation proposals, he said that this will come about after the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. It will be a confederation between the two independent states of Jordan and Palestine.

As for Palestinian relations with Egypt, Mr. Sourani quoted the PNC resolutions which called for stronger ties with the people of Egypt and its national leadership. But he noted that relations with the Egyptian government have been left for the Executive Committee to deliberate.

Asked if he thought that Egypt would pull out of the Camp David accords, Mr. Sourani replied in the affirmative. "Egypt is an Arab state. Former President Sadat led it in the wrong way, and it is on its way in return to the Arab family and to take



Lella G. Deeb interviews Jamal Sourani

its place in the Arab world. And this will not be long."

Asked how he viewed President Reagan's initiative, Mr. Sourani said that when Israel in the invasion of Lebanon did not achieve its goal, which was to end the Palestine Liberation Organization militarily, the Reagan initiative was created to end the PLO politically.

It denies the Palestinian people as a people, as well as their right to self-determination, statehood, and the PLO as their sole legitimate representative.

When asked about the PNC resolutions, which did not quite close the door to the Reagan initiative, he said: "If Reagan fulfills our request, we will not accept it." Continued on page 24

jordan

Mayors speak highly of Jordan visit

By Leila G. Deeb
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN -- A "mervelous week", a "delightful experience" and a "learning process" -- these are some of the expressions used by a group of mayors from the United States as they described their week-long visit to Jordan.

In a press conference at the end of their tour, some of the mayors said His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan had displayed an "articulate grasp of the (Middle East) situation," and said they "core deeply about peace." One mayor praised Jordan's sense of national purpose, saying it was evident that Jordanians "desire peace and advancement."

The visit of the eight mayors and their spouses was under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, who received the mayors. It was arranged by the recently-founded Jordan Society, whose president Mr. Carl Siver also attended the press conference.

Head of the delegation Mayor Ted Wilson, of Salt Lake City, Utah, described the tour as a "mervelous week", and the country as not the "dusty T.E. Lawrence" one that people seem to think it is. He saw similarities between Jordan and his own state.

The group were not spokesmen for the U.S. government, but were "just a study group."

Mr. Wilson expressed his thanks and appreciation of Crown Prince Hassan's briefing on

the Middle East. He added that he knew he was expressing the thoughts of all the mayors by saying that they all supported the Reagan Initiative.

Mayor James Inhofe of Tulsa, Oklahoma, added that he had talked with President Reagan just before coming to Jordan, and found him as resolved as ever to implement his plan. Asked whether the group felt they had learned anything from the visit, Mayor Harry Kinney of Albuquerque, New Mexico, said that this was a learning process, a very important one. The Arab-Americans had unfortunately not been very good communicators in the past of the true situation within Jordan, he said.

Mrs. Tom Brush, wife of the Mayor of Cincinnati, Ohio, said that this was only the beginning of a learning process, as the Middle East is so complex. Now they have learned enough "to start learning more."

Faith Latimer, Mayor George Latimer's daughter, expressed her thoughts by saying that she knew nothing about politics, but felt that the people were warm and made her feel comfortable and welcome. Asked whether she felt an affinity with the people, since her grandmother had been Lebanese, she said there were more differences than similarities. She came from a new, multicultural world without the historical roots of Middle Eastern cultures.

Mr. Latimer, mayor of St. Paul, Minnesota, said that the mayors were not here to implement American policy, but to fulfill an exploratory mission. "As human beings and



Queen Noor receives the US mayors delegation at Aqaba (Patra photo)

Americans, we care deeply about peace and feel that this is where it should begin." His Majesty King Hussein's policy is the "most critical act in recent history," while the position of President Reagan took courage and set the tone "for what we hope to be a peace process."

The mayors all said that they would be holding press conferences, interviews, and speaking engagements, as well as writing essays in their local papers, to bring home their impressions of what they saw. Plans were also

spoken of for city "twinning", conferences and other contacts.

Mayor Correll's, the only woman mayor in the group, spoke of the Western impression of women in the Arab countries were not recognized. This was now corrected, she said, and "we want to tell everyone that we have a place here and contribute their part to the work and progress of the country."

Mayor Tom Brush's impression was of a sense of urgency. If peace is not achieved quickly, all efforts will be for naught, he said.

jordan

Community countries' culture coming

By Kathy Spillman
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN -- "Something for everybody" is the invitation that the European Economic Community is extending to the people of Jordan. The European Community Spring Festival will be held from 30 March-21 April in Amman.

The programme of the festival, under His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's patronage, will include exhibitions and artistic performances representing a diverse cross-section of European culture. The exhibitions in particular are tailored to appeal to Jordanians as they illustrate the close historical interaction between Europe and Jordan, as well as the other Arab countries of the Mediterranean.

Addressing a press conference at the Amman Hotel on Tuesday, the EEC Commission delegate to Amman Mr. Thomas O'Sullivan said that the different exhibitions, organized by the community member states, are designed to show the Jordanian people what the EEC is, its relationship with Jordan and the Arab world and how that relationship is developing.

Mr. O'Sullivan told The Star that even though a treaty of co-operation was signed between Jordan and the EEC in 1977, many Jordanians are unaware of the community's purpose and development projects it supports in Jordan.

"The EEC hopes to develop a rapport with the Jordanian people through the festival and its various exhibitions," he said.

Ancient Instruments

He described the exhibitions in terms of the interest each will hold for Jordanians and non-Jordanians alike. All of them are to be displayed at the Royal Cultural Centre during the festival, and are open to the public free of charge.

"The West Germans will exhibit ancient navigation and astronomical instruments of the Arab world," said Mr. O'Sullivan. The purpose of this exhibition will be to show how these measuring devices were adopted by the Europeans and led to some of the great scientific discoveries of modern times. This is the first time the exhibit will be moved out of its home location in Nuremberg.

The French contribution will be an artistic display with a special emphasis on European artistic impressions of the Arab world, especially Egypt. "France commissioned six of its best artists to draw scenes from the Arab world," said Mr. O'Sullivan.

According to Mr. O'Sullivan, the British exhibition will prove to be of special interest to Arab scholars. Photographs and facsimile reproductions of Islamic literature and books will be displayed, coming from the Chester Beatty museum.

Greet tenor

In addition to the exhibitions, stage events will be presented offering a wide variety of the talent that Europe is internationally famous for. The events will begin with four performances by young soloists from the European Philharmonic Orchestra. Each soloist represents the best from prominent European music academies. The first performance is scheduled for 30 March.

Also performing will be Ireland's greatest tenor, Frank Patterson, whose programme will range from classical music to popular songs from European countries.

To appeal to the youth of Jordan, the British rock group Magna Carta will perform two shows at the Palace of Culture in Sports City. This group had a tumultuous reception when they came to Jordan before in 1981.

A very special programme of back-light theatre is being arranged under the auspices of the British Council. While it is aimed at attracting a children's audience, its dazzling special effects and imagery should capture the imagination of adults as well.

Mr. O'Sullivan said that the EEC is also in the

process of organizing a short film festival and hopes to show the Agatha Christie thriller "Appointment with Death", which was filmed in the ancient city of Patra.

The cost of tickets for the events will vary. "Some will cost more than others. The Greek Folk Troupe scheduled to appear on 12 April will cost around JD 5, while the rock band will cost JD 1." All profits will go towards a fund to be established for the 1984 Jordanian Olympic team.

Political dimension

While the main aim of the festival is to strengthen cultural understanding and technical ties between Jordan and Europe, it will also have a political dimension. A three-day visit by European parliamentarians, headed by Mr. Luc Byer de Ryke of the Liberal Party of Belgium, will coincide with the festival.

The parliamentarians represent a wide range of political views and parties, from the Italian Communist party to the Socialist Party of West Germany. The delegation will arrive in Amman on 29 March.

Soccer, which could be called the "national game" of both Jordan and Europe, will also be included in the festival's events. Two football teams, from Italy and Ireland, will play the Jordanian national team in two separate events. The French army fencing team will give a demonstration, as well.

Third rally set for August

By Leila G. Deeb
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN -- The third Jordan Rally was announced by the General Manager of the Royal Automobile Club, Derek Ledger. It will take place on 11 and 12 August, 1983. At a press conference held at the Amman Marriott Hotel, sponsors of the event, Mr. Ledger explained that the two-day rally will cover 1,300 kilometres of Jordanian terrain, covering such places as the Dead Sea area and the desert.

Mr. Ledger said that the aims of the rally are to generate greater international awareness of the Middle East's premier rally and the long-range idea of having a world championship rally in the Middle East organized jointly by the active clubs in the region.

It is also aimed at generating greater awareness of Jordan as a tourist attraction and a stable business centre for the Middle East. The first Jordan rally was held in 1981, locally, while the second was approved by the Federation Internationale du Sports Automobiles (FISA).

Mr. Ledger said that an observer is sent by FISA to report on such rallies and see that all FISA requirements and specifications are met.

In the first year, the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan sent an application to FISA. This was approved and the RAC is now able to hold international rallies. This year's is an international rally. This year's is an international rally. This year's is an international rally.

FISA's requirements to approve an international rally include details of the minimum total distance of the rally, competition sections or special stages, he said.

Mr. Ledger spoke about the organizational details of such a rally, saying that a special rally office will be opened at first at the RAC, but will be transferred to the Marriott Hotel on August 8.

Mr. Ghassan Asfour, Chief of Press Relations for the rally, said that organizing the rally takes a whole year, and that organizers start working on the new rally as soon as the current one is over.

Over 100 officials attend the event. They are chosen and trained through lectures and practical exercises and dummy sessions held at the club. They will man the time controls and transmit the results to the base computer at the Marriott Hotel.

Mr. Asfour added that the computer to be used will be lent by Wong Computers, who will also provide operators. Twenty doctors from Jordan University Hospital will be stationed at strategic points of the route, supported by 20 ambulances provided by the Civil Defence Department. A helicopter ambulance, and a press helicopter will be provided by the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

"The rally wouldn't exist without the co-operation and help of Public Security, Civil Defence, and other Jordanian government departments," said Mr. Asfour.

Mr. Ledger said that to find the route for the rally takes 15,000 kilometres of driving, to check and measure the route to the nearest 10 metres, and to prepare the road book, giving explicit details of the route.

"Every year we attend the Lombard RAC observe, make contacts and gain more experience for our own rally," said Mr. Asfour.

"For international rallies you need

experience, and you have to build it up by joining national rallies," explained Mr. Ledger. To give Jordanians the opportunity to gain such experience, a national rally will be held twice a year, the first on April 29, which will cover 250 kilometres, two-thirds of which is competitive.

"Success depends on the skill of the driver and the efficiency of the car," observed Mr. Ledger, "because the majority of the special stages are on desert roads, which need special driving skills."

This year 60 entries are expected, half of them Jordanian, and the other half from the Gulf states, Lebanon and other Arab countries.

Mr. Ledger said that there were 34 starters, with 13 finishers last year. Two cars had accidents, but there were no personal injuries due to the stringent safety requirements, including full harness seat belts, crash helmets, five-kilo fire extinguishers, laminated windscreens and additional bonnet and boot fastenings.

"There will probably be a car sponsored by one of the top international rally teams," continued Mr. Ledger. "One or two cars from Europe may join, while such car manufacturers as Renault, Toyota and Datsun are interested in sending cars for local drivers, and have done so in the past."

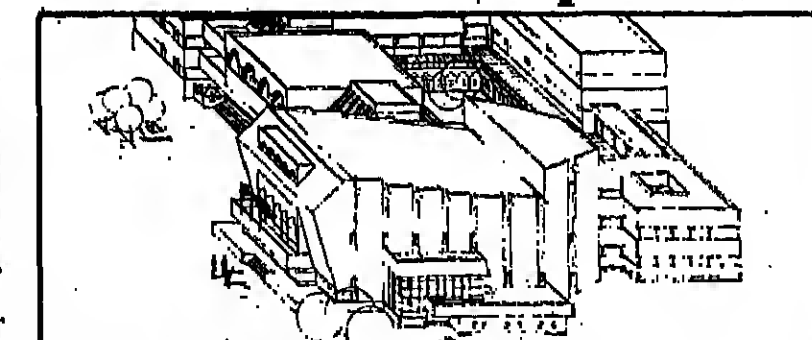
Stewards, who are the supreme judges of the rally, who decide on differences and interpret the regulations, will come from Cyprus, England and Oman.

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Activities centre planned



Design for the university's student activities centre

By Kathy Kakish
Special to the Star

AMMAN -- University of Jordan students will soon have an outlet for activities outside classes that is more in keeping with the university's high academic standard. A JD 1.6-million student activities building on the campus will provide a centre for extracurricular social, cultural and sports activities.

The university's board of trustees recently awarded a turnkey contract for the building's construction to the local Jordanian-Turkish Construction Company. Ziad Ibrahim, architect at the university's Consulting Centre, told The Star it was expected to be finished in December.

Preliminary designs for the centre by Mr. Kakish entail five joined buildings with an open lawn and terrace in the centre. There are two basements and three floors above ground; a total floor area of 11,000 square metres.

One of the centre's main features is the central auditorium which seats

1,400, including 450 in the balcony. It will have a spacious stage, ample backstage area and an orchestra pit. Also included in a royal box to be used for official occasions.

The Ballroom is another main section. It accommodates around 400 people and opens on the outside lawn and terrace.

Other main sections include various sports halls for bowling, table tennis and a pool table; a number of rooms for certain activities such as music practice, chess rooms and workshops; an exhibition gallery; a 130-seat auditorium suitable for rehearsals; a cafeteria, a lounge and storage area.

A section of one of the buildings will be used for the main offices of the dean of student affairs.

The project has been planned out in such a way that around 10,000 people could use the centre at one time, Mr. Ibrahim said.

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HAPPY RECEPTION: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Highness Princess Sarvath receive visiting Indian Vice-President Shri M. Hidayatullah and Mrs. Hidayatullah, Mr. Hidayatullah arrived on 27 February on a five-day visit accompanied by senior officials of the Indian Foreign Ministry. In response to an invitation from His Majesty King Hussein and the Crown Prince.

In the picture at right, Mr. Hidayatullah (to the Crown Prince's right) speaks with Her Highness Princess Sarvath. To her right is Mrs. Hidayatullah. Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid is in the foreground and to his right are Chief of the Royal Court and Mrs. Ahmad al-Lawzi. (Petra photo)



Team to Islamic Bank conference

AMMAN (Star)—The Jordanian delegation to the conference of governors of the Islamic Development Bank left on Sunday for Jeddah. Minister of Finance Salim Mas'adah leads the delegation, which includes Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi.

The bank, which has 45 Arab and Islamic member states aims at boosting up economic co-operation and joint activities among Arab-Islamic countries. The bank has plans for participation in new Jordanian projects such as the Aqaba railway, Amman sewerage, the Na'ur-Amman highway and phosphate mine development.

In the past the bank has participated in the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company project, the Jordan National Shipping Lines, Jordan Cement Factories Company and projects of the Ministry of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs.

'Solutions needed for Arab challenges

By Hamdan Al-Haj
Special to the Star

AMMAN — A seminar at the Professional Associations Complex in Shmeisani on Sunday was attended by Mr. Mahmoud El-Sherif, Director-general of Ad-Dustour newspaper and Dr. Hazim Nusalah, member of the National Consultative Council. Discussions on the future challenges facing Arab nations were led by Mr. Jawad Marakah, director of the Jordan News Agency Petra.

Mr. Nusalah spoke on the world situation in general and urged Arab nations to plan earnestly for the future.

He also commented on the struggle between the superpowers and the divisive effects among nations of strength and weakness. Increase in world population and world economic instability, particularly in relation to the Arabs were also among Mr. Nusalah's topics. He concluded by emphasizing the continuous, changing process of life.

While Mr. Sherif shared a common view with Mr. Nusalah, his speech concentrated on sociological and psychological aspects of human life. He described the future in terms of influences that will most affect it, including expansion of cities and communities, pollution, atmospheric and economic change and the

hovering threat of nuclear war.

Mr. Sherif stressed the need for Arab nations to concentrate on development in its aspects, to make plans and ensure that they be implemented. Despite the appalling state of the two-and-a-half-hour seminar was attended by a large audience.



Left to right: Jawad Marakah, Hazim Nusalah and Mahmoud Sharif

• THE UNIVERSITY of Jordan seismographic station recorded a light earthquake in the west of Irbid Governorate last Friday morning, registering 4.1 degrees on the Richter Scale. The earthquake's epicentre was 80 kilometres away from the station to the south of the Sea of Galilee. It lasted for 90 seconds.

• THE VALUE of Jordanian national exports during the first half of 1982 came to JD 104.5 million compared to JD 68.59 million for the same period of 1981. An increase of 53 per cent. Exports included foodstuffs, drinks, tobacco, phosphates, raw materials, chemicals, industrial products, machines and transport equipment. National exports to member countries of the Arab Common Market came to JD 535 million during the period covered. Iraq was the biggest recipient of Jordanian exports, taking JD 41.3 million. The rest of the Arab countries imported Jordanian goods valued at JD 22 million. Jordanian exports to EEC countries came to JD 1.7 million, to socialist bloc countries JD 12.2 million, and East Asian countries JD 12.6 million during the first half of 1982.

• THE SAUDI Development Fund has granted Jordan a loan of JD 11.6 million to finance the Aqaba thermal power station project. Several villages in northern Saudi Arabia may benefit from the new power station, which will be set up about 10 kilometres from the Saudi border.

• THE OFFICE of the Islamic World in Amman distributing a map of the Islamic World prepared by the secretariat general in Mecca, among schools and universities to serve as a reference. The map includes population figures and the percentage of Muslims in each country.

• THE CABINET has formed Jordan's delegation to the International governmental education conference for peace and the rights of man under Jordanian Ambassador in Paris Taher Al-Masri. The conference will convene in Paris this month.

• THE MINISTRY of Health has directed private hospitals on contracts with the Ministry to insure individuals under the new health security law, pledging to pay all obligations due on subscribers to the health insurance programme. This arrangement will remain valid until the agreement with these hospitals is modified to cope with the new health insurance regulation.

• UNDER-SECRETARY of the Information Ministry Peter Saleh will head Jordan's delegation to the Permanent Arab Information Committee meetings to convene in Tunis from 2-4 March. He will be accompanied by Mr. Atalla Al-Rub, a high-ranking official of the Ministry of Information.

• A DELEGATION from the World Health Organization will visit the University of Jordan on 24 March to discuss the possibility of converting the university's medical teaching unit into a regional unit. University President Abdulaziz Al-Majali instructed the dean of the Faculty of Medicine to form a committee to prepare for the meeting.

A closing surprise

By Mamdouh El-Ghaly

A LARGE transaction on the last working day of this week, involving Cairo Amman Bank shares greatly affected the market averages.

This deal, exceeding JD 1.29 million was not the only large one of the new year; but it came at a time when trading was very slow due to the poor weather. The average value of transactions during the first four days of the week did not exceed JD 150,000 daily. The big bank transaction increased the daily average threefold, causing deviation around the daily average to reach 150 per cent.

Another surprise occurred this week, when the price of shares increased by 18.8 per cent on this day which represents the highest rise since several months. This reversed the week's result regarding the average record figure. Without the bank deal there would have been a decrease of 0.3 per cent; but instead there was an increase of 1.2 per cent. The hesitation indicator also rose from about 0.3 per cent per day during the first four days to 1.5 per cent during the last working day: both this and the record figure, therefore, are misleading regarding the overall state of the market.

During the week from 22-28 February over 276,000 shares were handled at a market value of JD 2.09 million, distributed among 1,000 contracts: an increase of 42 per cent over last week.

The daily average came to JD 418,000 with a deviation of 28.7 per cent.

The bank's sector occupied 70.1 per cent of total transactions, representing an increase of 12 percentage points compared to last week. Cairo Amman Bank occupied 70 per cent of the sector's transactions or 64.2 per cent of total market trading, out of 16 banks representing the sector this week.

The industry sector of industry came second, occupying 11.3 per cent of total transactions: a decrease of 11.1 points compared to last week. This is industry's lowest share of the market for several months. Four industrial companies out of 25 occupied 53.3 per cent of the sector's transactions or 6.1 per cent of the market total. Jordan Petroleum Refinery took the lead with 19.3 per cent of the sector followed by Jordan Cement Factories occupying 17.4 per cent, Intermediate Petrochemical Industries 9.5 per cent and Arab Pharmaceutical Industries, occupying 7.1 per cent of the sector's transactions.

The services sector ranked third, a decrease of 4.7 per cent of the market, a decrease of 1.1 points from last week. Two out of nine services firms occupied 51.2 per cent of the sector or 2.3 per cent of the total. Arab Investment and International Trading had 28.9 per cent of the sector or 1.3 per cent of the total, and National General Investments 22.3 per cent of the sector or 1 per cent of the total.

The insurance sector ranked last, representing 3.9 per cent of total transactions; the same share as last week. Holy Land Insurance, out of 10 insurance companies occupied 23 per cent of the sector or 0.9 per cent of the market total.

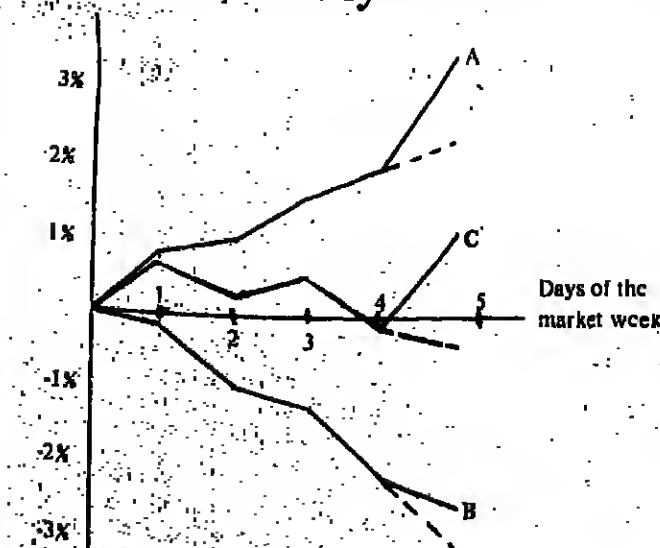
The shares of 50 companies were handled this week. The share prices of 16 of them rose, for example Cairo Amman Bank, closing at JD 50 up from JD 41.750, Jordan Trading at JD 1.950 up from JD 1.800 and Jordan Cement Factories, JD 2.190 up from JD 2.120.

The share prices of 34 companies decreased. Holy Land Insurance closed at JD 1.850, down from JD 2, Jordan Phosphate Mines at JD 2.750 down from JD 2.950, Jordan Pipes Industry at JD 1.440 down from JD 1.520 and Petra Bank JD 37.500 down from JD 39.250.

Ten companies recorded no share price change.

In the over-the-counter market about 350,000 shares were handled this week at a market value of about JD 388,000.

The weekly record



A: Average of companies whose share price showed a price increase this week.
B: Average of companies with a price decrease.
C: The mean record figure.

BROKEN LINES: Figures calculated without the influence of the Cairo Amman Bank deal.

New water project studied

Dam raising work begins

AMMAN (Star)—Work has started on the \$50 million project to raise the King Talal Dam and increase its water storage capacity, the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) announced this week. The 92-metre-high dam is to be raised by 16 metres.

The official Jordanian news agency Petra quoted JVA Director of Dams Dhafer Al-Alem as saying the extension would increase the dam's storage capacity to 80 million cubic metres. Water from the reservoir will be used to irrigate 82,000 dunums of land.

The dam-raising work is being done by the Hanbo General Construction Company of South Korea, which submitted the low bid of \$43.4 million when the project was tendered in September 1982. Hanbo is working on several other water-related jobs in Jordan, including the Dair Alla - Amman pipeline and the Mukhaibeh well canal.

The dam-raising project also includes the installation of a four-megawatt hydroelectric power station.

It was also announced this week that the JVA is working on a feasibility study for the second phase of the southern Ghor water resources project, estimated to cost JD 30 million. Mr. Al-Alem said this phase would entail building a diversion weir in the Wadi Mujib and diverting its waters to the southern Jordan Valley via a 3,500-metre canal.

The first phase of the southern Ghor project began in September 1982 with the signing of a contract with Italy's Impresit to build an irrigation system. Diversion weirs are being built in six wadis, and the water carried to farms which will buy drip irrigation systems with loans from the Agricultural Credit Corporation.

The project is being supported by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the Saudi Fund for

Development, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Italian government.

Mr. Al-Alem told The Star that the feasibility study for the second phase of the southern Ghor project, which has been in the works since the mid-1960s, is being done by the Japanese firm Nippon Koei. The four-month contract was awarded to the firm as a natural extension of its work as consultant on the Wadi Arab dam project, he said. The study is actually updating work that has already been done.

The water from the Wadi Mujib diversion weir will bring irrigation to an additional 40,000 dunums of land, Mr. Al-Alem said. Also included in the second phase work is a dam at Tannur, on the Wadi Hass. It will collect water for use in irrigation networks on the plateau.

Mr. Al-Alem said second phase construction work will begin after financing is arranged. The third phase will then become the subject of detailed study and updating. It involves two dams—at Mukheil and Rumail in the Saff area, also for the plateau—and three check dams in small wadis for flood control.

Mr. Al-Alem was quoted as saying that 4 million cubic metres of water have collected behind the Kufraim dam, 3.2 million cubic metres in the Ziqlab dam and 1.5 million in Wadi Shuaib dam.

Aqaba imports up by 35%

AMMAN (Petra) — Goods imported via Aqaba have increased by 35 per cent during 1982 compared to 1981, while phosphate and other exports increased by 2 per cent.

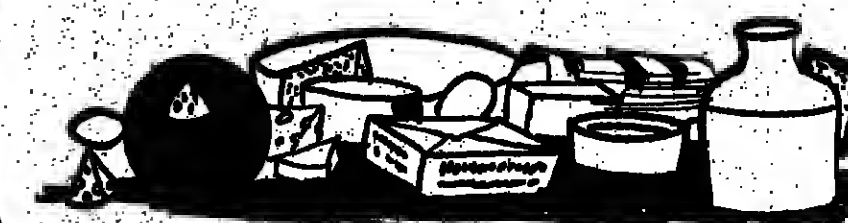
A total of 2,599 ships anchored at the port in 1982, with a total capacity of 7.83 million tonnes. During 1981 there were 1,744 ships, carrying 5.8 million tonnes.

THE DAIRY WEEK

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- KHALAF STORES
- AL WAHA



economy

Gulf cushioned against plunge

By M.J. Zahedi
Star Gulf Correspondent

DUBAI — Even before last week's round of oil price cuts, Gulf Arab members of Opec had been warning of the dangers of any unilateral action. The warnings were not heeded, and the result is uncertainty in all the monetary capitals of the world.

However, the situation does not seem to be beyond repair. UAE Oil Minister Mansour bin Juma Al Otaiba is said to be optimistic; so is Venezuela's Humberto Calderon Fent. The oil ministers of the Opec countries have been holding intense consultations among themselves as well as with their counterparts in the non-Opec countries. For the first time, it would appear, the Opec and non-Opec countries will agree on something concerning this vital commodity.

Gulf states more secure

It would be for the good of everyone, the producers as well as the consumers. The consuming countries have been drawing on the stocks which they had built up in fear of a slowdown in production in some Opec countries. But they cannot do so forever. They will have to come back to the market, sooner or later. Then it will be a seller's market again.

A price war would hurt the non-Arab Opec members most. This is the message Dr. Otaiba, Saudi Arabia's Dr. Zaki Yamani and others have been frantically trying to convey. Dr. Otaiba has not minced words; he says that the Gulf Arab producers alone are able to deal with the present crisis, but in the interest of Opec unity and stability in the world economy they have decided to act under the Opec umbrella. They did not want to contribute to a price war that would cause the collapse of the price structure and consequently political, economic and social confusion, he said.

The Gulf-Arab producers will be the last to be affected by a price war. These countries have huge investments and energy reserves. Moreover, the cost of producing oil in the Gulf region is much lower than in other countries. So, if they have to reduce their price, they will not doubt lose in revenue but their economies will not collapse.

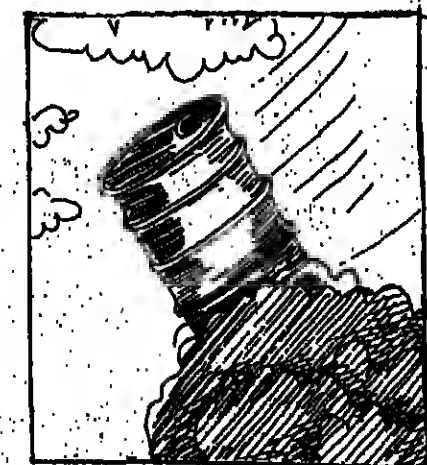
Population is another factor in their advantage. For example, Saudi Arabia, the largest producer, has a population of only 3 to 4 million and reserves which can earn about \$15 billion a year. Similarly, Kuwait, with just 600,000 people, can get the benefit of about \$10 billion a year income from its reserves. The UAE exports about 1 million barrels a day, more than enough for its 300,000 citizens. Qatar, on the other hand, exports about 300,000 barrels daily to provide for its 200,000 population. Thus it will take a long time for these countries to suffer much from the drop of oil prices.

Development slowdown

Current earnings will, naturally, fall. There will have to be tightening of belts in these countries and some development plans may have to be held back. But they have been preparing for this for quite some time now, ever since the first signs of the glut began appearing. These trimmings,



however, are not likely to affect the essential development plans. Only those which had surplus oil on them will have the excess removed. Secondly, most of these plans had been budgeted some time ago, when the price of oil had not gone up to the present level. For example, the Saudi five-year plan was prepared in 1979, when the price was \$18 a barrel.



Wide ramifications

The countries which will be badly affected are the non-Gulf Opec members. Nigeria, which aggravated the crisis by cutting its price to match the North Sea producers' price level, will be hit hard. So will Indonesia and Mexico.

There will be other ramifications. The "Seven Sisters" — the multinational oil companies — have

already started worrying, and drilling companies, consortiums and banks may also shortly have much to worry about. For if Opec loses its oil markets, the industrialized countries lose their markets for export products. Thus the gain in lower oil prices would in no way compensate for the loss of export income by the developed countries.

It makes economic sense to sustain a price for crude oil which reflects its real value to the world community. What should be appreciated is Opec's stabilizing role in the oil market. Some have said that if Opec did not exist, it would have "had to be created" to bring about stability and moderation. The world would have seen plummeting oil prices, coupled with massive over-depletion of source resources and a resultant scramble for what little reserves were left.

It is clear that the organization needs to establish both short and long-term policies as to its contribution to market stability. In the short term, the situation can be partly managed and the market reestablished through the continued concerted action of Opec members, with the maintenance of unified, firm pricing policies. In the long run, one goal of the organization should be to plan production levels to the requirements of consumers, as well as to conservation of resources.

Both these requirements have been stressed by the Gulf countries. In all meetings of the organization, the situation has now reached a point where further disagreements on those vital needs will cause incalculable harm to the member countries themselves as well as to the consumers. Action on these needs cannot wait any longer.



Ahmed Zaki Yamani



Mansour bin Juma Al Otaiba

Fund maintains its level of assistance

VIENNA (OPECNA) — The Opec Fund for International Development has enough resources to maintain the level of its lending. Director General Ibrahim Shihata told a recent news conference.

He said in terms of "approved commitments" during 1982, which he described as the "year of the greatest performance," the fund extended \$339.6 million consisting of \$438.2 million in loans, \$29.3 million in grants, besides making a contribution of \$425.6 million to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

"Actual commitments" consisted of \$323.7 million in loans, \$41.3 million in grants and a contribution of \$41.2 million to IFAD. As for disbursements, the fund extended \$485.9 million during the year, made up of \$267.8 million in loans, \$40.9 million in

grants and a \$177.3 million contribution to IFAD.

He explained that approved commitments were assistance approved by the Opec Fund governing board; actual commitments were those which had already been legally finalized, while disbursements represented money transfers to recipients.

He said the performance of the Opec Fund in 1982 was significant considering that Opec member countries' incomes were either stagnant or declining during the year.

As to the future, he said there was no danger to the continuity of the fund's operations, adding that existing resources had not all been utilized. He stated that a spending level of \$350 million had been approved for 1983, and a similar amount for 1984.

In addition, \$20 million had so far been received in repayments from previous years.

Mr. Shihata pointed out two "special features" of the fund's activities in 1982. The first was the emphasis on projects resulting in greater co-operation among developing countries. He referred to a coal project in Indonesia being co-financed by Brazil. It was the first time Brazil had extended assistance to a developing country. He also mentioned an oil and gas exploration project in Tunisia in which Sonatrach, the Algerian national oil company, was extending technical co-operation, with financial support by the Opec Fund and consultancy by the Arab Engineering Company.

The second feature was the procurement of equipment, loans by the fund's governing board, to finance the fund's objective of strengthening co-operation among developing nations.

Answering questions, Mr. Shihata said the prosperity of Opec had positive effects on developing countries, and reiterated the Opec Fund assistance was not comparable for all price increases.

"It is sharing with those with whom we feel an affinity," the director general said. He stressed that the fund had enough resources to enable it to maintain its lending and added that as far as the economic situation was concerned, "the Opec Fund as a separate entity was not affected by the problems of the Opec Fund as a whole, which was working towards an agreement for the common fund for Opec."

Middle East peace, political surprises and Opec threaten election success

By Len Rockingham
Star London Correspondent

THE MAJOR event in Britain this week has been a political one. The result of a parliamentary by-election in Bermondsey in south London was so astonishing that its effect on British politics, in what is in all probability going to be an election year, completely dominates press and private discussion.

There has however, been some movement in Britain's relations with the Middle East, both on the political front and even more in economic affairs, where Britain is involved in talks to prevent a collapse in world oil prices.

Bermondsey, which is in the heart of the decayed, former dockland area of south London, seems an unlikely place for a revelation in British politics.

It has been a safe parliamentary seat for the opposition Labour Party for most of this century, but last week the Labour Party suffered a humiliating defeat here.

What had been a Labour majority of 11,000 votes became a majority of 9,000 votes for the Liberal Party, which with the left-of-centre Social Democrats from the third force in British politics the Liberal SDP alliance.

There were undoubtedly special and local reasons for the magnitude of Labour's defeat. Its candidate was a young revolutionary, who obviously had little appeal to the rather traditional voters of this London borough.

Equally, obviously many voters crossed party lines to vote Liberal and thus defeat the Labour candidate. But, since the Bermondsey vote, many people think that British politics will not be the same again and they are insistently asking two main questions.

The first question is whether the Labour Party, which was after all in government only four years ago, not now in such a

state of terminal decline that it has no real hope of challenging the Conservatives at the coming election.

Here the focus of attention is the Labour leader, Mr. Michael Foot, and whether he should resign.

Mr. Foot is a respected orator and man of principle and incidentally, a brother of Lord Caradon, who was Britain's Civil Administrator in Palestine during the Mandate.

But Mr. Foot is not regarded as strong enough to sort out the serious problems of the party and perhaps will not be able effectively to lead it into a general election.

That question may not worry Mrs. Thatcher and her government, but the second question certainly does. For it is now asked whether the Liberal-SDP alliance is experiencing such a revival that it may soon take over from Labour the status of being the real alternative to the Conservatives.

Public opinion polls indicate that that is a very real possibility. If that were to happen, it could seriously jeopardize Mrs. Thatcher's chances of re-election.

To turn now to the Middle East, in the past week the Conservative government has been active in trying to inject new life into President Reagan's peace initiative.

With increasing evidence that the initiative is in serious trouble indeed, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Francis Pym, flew off to California, where the Queen and Prince Philip are paying an official visit.

There he will meet the American Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz, for intensive discussions which could lead to a strong intervention by President Reagan in the Middle East peace process.

Apart from President Reagan, the other crucial figure is, of course, King Hussein of Jordan, and he has been in London for talks with Mrs. Thatcher's government.

The subject of the talks has not been revealed, but Mrs. Thatcher was asked about the King's role in the peace process at a press conference during the visit to London by the Italian Prime Minister.

She replied that obviously there is a very important role for the King to play and the timing of that role is a matter for discussion between a number of countries, including -- as she put it -- "several of us and the United States."

Also on the subject of Middle East politics, this week the man whom Israel had chosen to be its new ambassador in London withdrew his name because of what he called "hostility" in certain circles.

So, on this small diplomatic matter, at least, the Israelis will be forced to think again.

But it is oil which has drawn Britain most deeply into Middle East affairs in the past week. Britain is now the world's fifth biggest oil producer and earlier this month it cut its price for North Sea oil by four dollars a barrel, which led to other producers such as Norway and Nigeria to cut their prices.

So this week, Mexico's oil minister came to London for urgent talks, which are part of a joint Venezuelan-Mexican initiative, to try to get Britain to coordinate its oil pricing policies with those of OPEC.

Britain has always refused to join OPEC and is naturally reluctant to be seen to be colluding with it in fixing prices.

But, on the other hand, such countries as Mexico and Venezuela have such huge debts that a collapse in oil prices could well lead to an international banking crisis.

All of that would be too much for Mrs. Thatcher, especially in election year.

Signs of Indian disunity?



A family slaughtered in Assamese atrocities

By Sunanda Datta-Ray
CALCUTTA (ONS) — Even though Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party swept the board in the recent elections in Assam, the problems are far from over. For the hollow victory sparked more unrest by anti-immigrant campaigns.

The latest bloodshed has taken the huge death toll from the continuing unrest and the exodus of immigrants from the state may even signal a positive threat to Indian unity as a whole.

Although the elections in the north-eastern Indian state of Assam were hardly the best advertisement for Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's democracy, they represented a brave effort to persuade Indian states not to pull up their ethnic drawbridges and to hold together a sprawling country of diverse races and religions united only by British rule and the legacy it bequeathed to the Congress Party.

Had Mrs. Gandhi failed in Assam, she might only have had the Army left as the last force able to prevent Sikhs, Nagas, Mizos, Nalpuris, Kashmiris and other Indian nationalists from breaking away and asserting independence.

The Assam elections were staggered to give New Delhi a chance to maintain the peace. Although 50 battalions of armed troops were in the state to keep the peace, 1,500 people died in an orgy of murder, arson, looting and sabotage.

As the polling began, hundreds of tribesmen armed with bows and arrows, spears and hatchets swooped on 13 Assamese villages, massacred the inhabitants and set fire to the huts.

The tribesmen, whose Plains Tribal Council is contesting 20 assembly and two parliamentary constituencies, were retaliating against two militant organizations which have dynamited bridges, destroyed roads, wrecked government offices and kidnapped or killed politicians in an attempt to prevent the elections.

In response Mrs. Gandhi has arrested about a thousand leaders of the anti-election movement, imposed press censorship and enforced what amounts to military rule.

The rebellion, which began more than three years ago, is the work of the All-Assam Students Union and the Parishad People's Struggle Association.

The two groups claim Assamese have been swamped by four million illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

New Delhi says the figure is near a million and the immigrants are not illegal since Hindus from Bangladesh (as from erstwhile Pakistan) enjoy an unofficial but automatic right of permanent sanctuary.

Underlying this argument is Mrs. Gandhi's fear that if the Assamese are allowed to elect Bangladeshis, they could turn next to Bengalis who have lived in the state for centuries, ever since early British times. Expulsion of the prosperous Bengali community has always been seen as the prime objective of the chauvinistic "Assam only for the Assamese" campaign.

New Delhi was prepared to talk things over for a while but 23 rounds of discussions and several significant concessions, including an offer to deprive refugees of the right to vote, failed to appease the union and Parishad, which insisted that four million Bengalis had to be driven out overnight.

Complaining that "Foreigners" alone would vote since they dominated the electoral rolls, the Assamese had warned that anyone who co-operated in the elections would be severely punished. Because of the success of their hit-and-run gangs, civil servants often refused to sign polling stations.

On 14 February only 8 per cent of the 58,000 voters turned out in the capital town.

Given this climate of fear, and with only 600 candidates compared to nearly 1,100 during last polls, the results were a walkover for the Indira Congress.

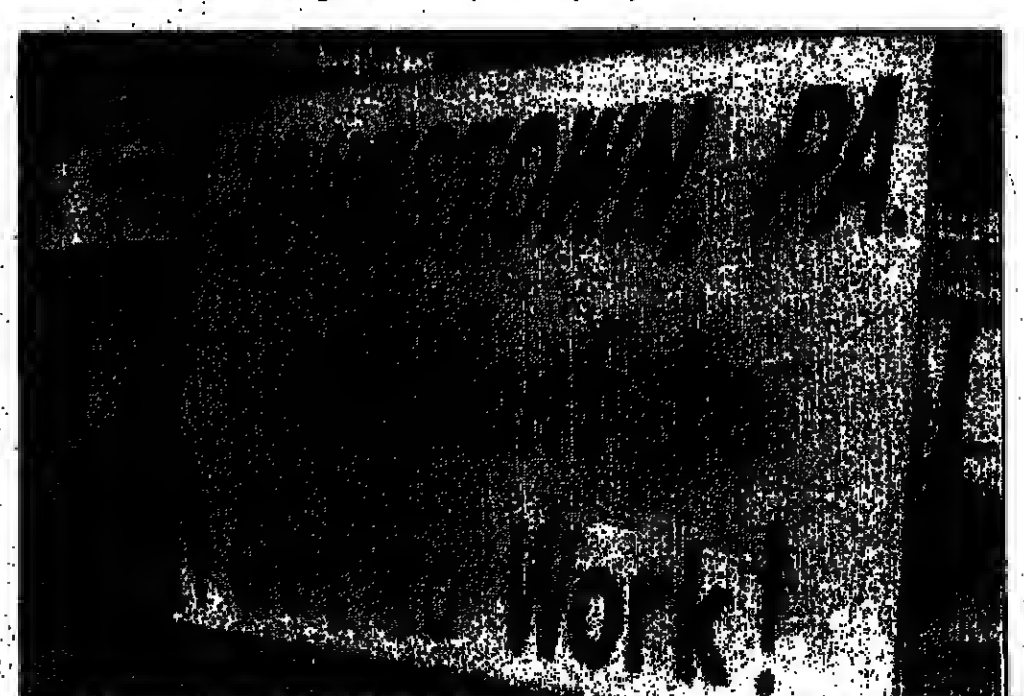
But that will not solve any problems for Mrs. Gandhi or Assam. At best it will enable her to claim that a necessary constitutional condition has been fulfilled.

If the Prime Minister tries to wring any further satisfaction from the results and saddle the state with her own party, "elected" by less than 30 per cent of voters, she will provoke the Assamese to even more formidable revolt. She has no option but to continue trying to find an acceptable solution with the men she is now fighting.

World in Pictures



ATLANTA, Georgia — Dr. Saud Islam (left) Editor-in-Chief of the Saudi Gazette and Atlanta's Mayor Andrew Young announce plans for a conference of American and Saudi Arabian business executives to be held in Atlanta on May 9 and 10. Former President Jimmy Carter and Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige will attend. (AP Laserphoto)



JOHNSTOWN, Pennsylvania — A giant placard stands in protest against unemployment which has risen to 22.7 per cent, the highest in the United States (AP Wirephoto)

middle east

Israel-Playing for time and territory

By Janice Turner

South/Third World Media

"It is unimportant whether the commission decided this or the opposition decided that." This was the verdict of Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon on the day the Kahan Commission published the results of its enquiry into the Beirut massacre and demanded his resignation.

The 108 page document had destroyed the Israeli government's declaration that Israel could not be held indirectly responsible for the massacre at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in which hundreds of Palestinian refugees were slaughtered last September. While asserting the Israeli cabinet and defence forces had not planned the massacre, the commission concluded that "it should have been foreseen that the danger of a massacre existed if the Phalangists were to enter the camps without measures being taken to prevent them from committing acts such as these."

The judicial committee comprised the chairman, Chief Justice Yitzhak Kahan, Professor Aharon Barak, a supreme court judge, and Major General Yona Ephraim. Their report has caused political uproar in Israel.

They declared that Ariel Sharon should resign or be dismissed. Prime Minister Menachem Begin was guilty of "indifference" to the events and they could not accept that he was unaware of the danger of a massacre taking place. Foreign Minister Mr. Yitzhak Shamiir was censured for his actions, or lack of action, and Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Raphael Eitan, escaped the call for his resignation only because he is due to retire in April 1983 anyway. Chief of Intelligence Major-General Yehoshua Saguy, was considered "not fit to continue" and Brigadier-General Amos Yaron, commander of the Israeli troops in Beirut at the time, was recommended to be denied another field command for three years.

Clearly, with so many implicated with responsibility for what happened in Beirut however indirectly, the government could not continue unchanged. After a number of long meetings discussing the report, on Thursday night the Israeli cabinet voted 16-1 in favour of accepting a resolution introduced and supported by Begin which stated, "In our opinion, it is fitting that the Minister of Defence draw the appropriate personal conclusions arising out of the defects revealed with regard to the manner in which he discharged the duties of his office, and it is necessary that the prime minister consider whether he should exercise his authority according to which the prime minister remove a minister from office."

By Friday, Sharon had accepted the decision and agreed to resign, but at the time of writing he still intends to remain in the cabinet. Although Begin has attempted to secure enough support within the coalition to call a general election, some of the smaller coalition parties would be in danger of electoral liquidation in an election at this time, and therefore appear unwilling to go ahead with this option. Therefore, at least in the short term it is in the government's interest to be completely rid of Sharon, but by his remarks it would seem that this unwilling senescence will not go down without a fight.

Sharon, with Lieutenant-General Eitan, is the chief architect of the invasion of Lebanon and has co-ordinated Israeli activity in that country ever since. But even with his departure, will this speed up the Israeli withdrawal?

Having implanted themselves in the southern half of the country, Israel has put forward three main conditions for withdrawal: an explicit declaration ending the war; opening the border to trade and tourism, and leaving a "residual presence" of Israeli soldiers inside southern Lebanon for Israel's security.

The last condition has wavered from being merely observation posts near the Israeli border to co-ordinating security operations with the local militias. Such are equally unacceptable to the head of the Lebanese delegation to the withdrawal talks, Mr. Antoine Fattal, who has consistently refused to give way and resists any normalisation of relations between the two countries. "Israel is entitled to its security," he commented, "But so is Lebanon."

United States and UN officials believe that incidents in which Israelis have attempted to cross zones guarded by the multinational forces, or prevented UN helicopters from leaving their bases (which has happened on at least 25 occasions in a month), are part of a plan to discredit the multinational and UN forces, thus giving Israel a reason to remain in Lebanon.

Mr. Fattal accused the Israelis in the 13th round of the withdrawal talks of manipulating Lebanon's internal divisions to their own ends. In the Chouf mountains of central Lebanon there has been much fighting between the Phalangists and the Druze Muslims. The Israelis arranged a cease-fire between the



Sharon leaving ministry of defence: "It is unimportant what the commission has decided..."

two sides, with Israel a party to the agreement. Israel assumed responsibility for its application; the Israeli commander responsible for the truce, General Amnon Lipkin, said he hoped peace would prevail. "But if not, we will intervene." The Phalangists were driven out of the strategically-important town of Aley, above the Beirut-Damascus highway, by Druze fighters on 6 February, which was followed by the Israelis.

The Phalangist-controlled Voice of Free Lebanon radio said that the Israelis had prevented the despatch of a reinforcement of Phalangist forces, and many Lebanese have taken this to imply that the Israelis are pressuring the Lebanese president himself to concede to the Israelis' demands for withdrawal, or else suffer a military defeat at the hands of Muslim forces.

Another development in the last three weeks has been the rounding-up of Palestinian householders in Sidon suburbs who under threat of their lives have been ordered to sell their homes and move to the Ain-Hilweh refugee camp in Sidon. To prove they mean business, the Phalangists under the guise of "The Revolutionaries of Cedars" have killed one or two Palestinians to set an example.

With the massacre still in their minds, the Palestinians are left with no alternative but to go along with the demands and return to the refugee camps. Ironically, they have had to turn to the Israeli commanders for protection, who have begun to guard the camps against Phalangist incursions.

The ultimate insult to the Palestinian refugees is that they are so defenceless that the Israeli authorities have actually created the "Social and Humanitarian Committee for the People of Ain-Hilweh" within the camp, and given them weapons. The Palestinians have been quick to see the similarity between this organisation and the "village leagues" which the Israelis created on the West Bank, and it has already begun to split the Palestinians in Ain-Hilweh between those who are willing and those who are not willing to be bought off.

But there is a vision in the eyes of the Zionists which transcends other considerations, and that is the formation of a Greater Israel, which territory includes all of what in 1946 was Palestine.

The Reagan plan for a solution to the Palestinian issue was based around the formation of a Palestinian state in confederation with Jordan on the West Bank. This obviously clashes with Zionist plans.

An estimated 25,000 Jewish settlers already live on the West Bank, and the World Zionist Organisation envisages it to double this year. The Israeli government has approved a \$150,000 advertising campaign to encourage Israelis to move

there, and there are 2,000 housing units currently being built on the West Bank which will be ready by April.

The World Zionist Organisation, which is in charge of settling settlement plans for the Israeli government, is aiming for 100,000 Jews in the occupied territories by the end of the year. Although there are some doubts that it will be reached by then, above all, they look forward to the achievement of their ultimate settlement aim by the year 2010, a plan to house 1 million Jews alongside 1.6 million Arabs. Zeev Elon, Vice-Spokesman for the WZO's settlement division, is reported to have commented, "People are moving in every week - hundreds."

The invasion of Lebanon with all its horror has served a secondary purpose other than the official Israeli purpose: a timely diversion from the West Bank annexation policy. The world is clamouring for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, not the removal of West Bank settlements.

President Reagan's plans for a freeze on the building of settlements were cast aside with decision. As every Palestinian knows, what happens in the next few years is likely to return them to at least a part of their country, or to enter into the wilderness just as the Jews were in the days of the Testament or the Talmud.

The Israelis are also aware that the American position is due to begin grinding slowly to a halt - or at least a very tentative crawl - with the onset of this year's presidential elections and the 1984 US presidential election. Only primaries and the 1984 US presidential election would probably American president with suicidal tendencies would probably for the removal of Jewish settlers in an election year. Consequently, if an international call for the removal of Jewish settlements is avoided by Israel for another 6 months or so, they will have no need to heed any until well into 1984, and then the damage may well have been done.

But for Lebanon, the Israelis appear to have adopted a new approach. Having entered to "rid Lebanon of all foreign forces," Ariel Sharon was heard to say that Israel would "mind Syria retaining a few outposts in the northern side of the country, similar to those envisaged for Israel in the area which hinted at his thoughts of partitioning Lebanon into two parts, Syria. But it must be said that they have failed in that. Syria. Not only love they been unable to rid Lebanon of foreign troops, but they have managed to install troops from more countries than Lebanon has hosted at any one time in its entire history.

'Moscow may move' - Heikal

MOHAMMED HASANAIN Heikal, former editor of Egypt's "Al-Ahram" asked for his opinions on the current Arab scene, has stated that he expects the USSR will play a stronger role in Middle East affairs in 1983. His remarks have particular significance following the visit in January to Moscow of PLO leader Yasser Arafat, who proclaimed a "new relationship".

It was not unlikely that the new Soviet leader, Yuri Andropov, would adopt a more vigorous policy in the Middle East designed to bring the Soviet Union from the "periphery" to the heart of the Arab World, says Mr. Heikal.

Mr. Heikal, who knows Andropov personally, "cannot imagine that the Soviets will forever leave the core of the Arab World an open arena for the Americans". Moscow, he said, was more likely to take some kind of action now because international opinion was ripe for an anti-Israeli step. Israel was isolated and America, after humiliating the Arabs, was now provoking them "beyond belief", which meant that "one Soviet move in the right direction can now yield tremendous capital."

Speaking of the new Soviet leader, Mr. Heikal commented:

"Yuri Andropov is an intelligent man, an enlightened man, a man who knows the realities of power. He has been in the KGB, and the KGB is not only a spy thing; it is not the oppression machine some like to portray it as; it is the Soviet Union's security apparatus."

"I know the man and have met him three times", said Mr. Heikal. Speaking of his last meeting he said: "In the 40 minutes I spent with him, I was amazed by his ability to understand the realities of the modern world. He is a man who recognises the importance of the Middle East and has seen how many Soviet outposts in this region were lost because of the traditional over-enthusiasm Soviet policy under Brezhnev."

"Knowing what I know about Andropov, I do not rule out the possibility of a more active Soviet policy in the Arab World now. I don't see them keeping their position in Afghanistan, for example, but I don't see them deserting the Middle East either. I think we are going to see leadership in Moscow which, given any opportunity, will at least put on record that it is an interested party in the Middle East."



Andropov: "He knows the realities of power"

"I cannot imagine that the Soviets will forever remain on the peripheries of the Arab World - in Afghanistan, on their own borders, in the Indian Ocean, in the Horn of Africa - and leave the core of the Arab World an open arena for the Americans."

"The likelihood of a more active Soviet policy in the Middle East in the foreseeable future is increased by the USSR's preference for action in a favourable public-opinion mood. The Soviet Union has always preferred to act in support of a point of view when public opinion is saturated in favour of that point of view. Israel is now isolated. American backing of Israel has humiliated the Arab World, which, humiliated as it is, is still being provoked beyond belief. One Soviet move in the right direction now can yield tremendous capital."

Editor's note: Mr. Heikal was interviewed at his Cairo home by Mouna as-Said of the Beirut magazine, "Moudhay Moudhay".

US public misguided on Opec

By Franz Seligmann

THERE IS no major international organization, not even the Kremlin Politburo, which is so misled by the US public as Opec. Thus, when the Geneva Opec meeting to set world oil output and prices fell apart into bitter wrangling in late January, much of the American reaction was glee: Let the band of thieves cut each others' throats, and fill millions of the necks of depressed consumers all over the world.

So much the better if the finely attuned co-conspirators of this oil mafia, the big-oil executives, saw their stock and profits take a nosedive. And if the monopoly power of Opec and the oil corporations were broken, the big banks might finally get out of the international financial game and resume extending investment credit to small businesses and ordinary citizens.

The anti-trust tradition

Loathing of foreign capital, big corporations and mighty banks is a good old American tradition. Around the beginning of this century, rising populist sentiment broke much of the monopolies' power through anti-trust legislation. There is no denying that it worked then: The United States rapidly experienced a mighty upsurge of production and consumption, reflected in the evolution of the automobile from an expensive toy for the rich to a daily necessity for most people. But there are good grounds for concluding that it is not going to happen again this time in the same way.

A look at the experts' reaction to the Geneva fiasco finds some analysts arguing that the expected price drop will be good for the economy, others that it will be bad. Common to just about all the comments, however, is that any precipitate drop in prices now would be just as catastrophic as the 400 per cent price hike in late 1973 was for the world's non-communist economies.

But isn't competition always the name of the game in capitalist economies? Absolutely not: As Thornton Bancroft, former president of Atlantic Richfield Company, observed many years ago, there has never been a free market in oil.

For years the State and Treasury departments have refused to launch anti-trust actions against the big oil companies. Nevertheless, all the evidence indicates that these companies formed an international oil cartel very similar to Opec.

Traditionally, evidence of monopoly is a price rigidity which would be impossible under normal competitive con-

ditions. But as figures released in the early 1970s by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) showed, world oil prices from 1950 to 1970, aside from one tiny blip, formed a near inter-perfect line. The slight instability blip occurred at the time of the 1958 crisis that resulted in US Marines being dispatched to Lebanon.

In a sense, what some refer to as oil's "historic price stability" is a polite way of saying "monopoly pricing." Yet before succumbing to American-as-apple populism, Americans might remember that the years from 1950 to 1970 constituted the most extraordinary period of economic growth and prosperity in our history. Americans enjoyed cheap oil, cheap food and cheap housing on a scale unknown elsewhere. And with output constantly rising, consumers had more than enough disposable income to buy more and more of the good things of life.

Many Americans are unaware that Opec was born in 1960, long before the oil shock of late 1973-74. Its rise to prominence began in 1970, so quietly that only the readers of business journals were aware of the development. The goal was a smooth transfer of stewardship over world oil prices from the Anglo-American cartel to one essentially dominated by two good friends of the United States and Britain: Saudi Arabia and the Shah's Iran.

Green to the cause

It was the political and military turmoil of the October 1973 Arab-Israeli war that sparked the oil shock; not Opec greed. By the mid-1970s, Opec indeed began to function smoothly, like a cartel, and predictably oil prices stabilized. They were only disrupted again by a political event: the Islamic revolution in Iran in November 1978. And though prices rose then, beginning in 1980 they settled back down, finally stabilizing and even falling as a result of a Saudi-engineered oil glut. The stock market took note of this as it went on its euphoric spree last August, just as it reeled with a drop when the Geneva talks broke down.

The warning signs are therefore clear. If Opec were to dissolve into the band of thieves so many Americans seem to think they are, the results for the consumer would more likely be disastrous than delightful. Oil is bought in large bulk by giant organizations, planning for the long term. With so many of them already on the brink of financial disaster, the collapse of Opec could well ignite the 1930s-style global depression which people have been openly dreading for several years.

--Pacific News Service

middle east

Egyptian lawyers burn Israel's flag

CAIRO -- Security forces surrounded the building of the Egyptian lawyers syndicate at the time Israeli flags were being burnt inside the building on the 3rd anniversary of hoisting the Israeli flag over Cairo. While the Israeli flags were burning inside the building, a huge Palestinian flag was flying over the building amid shouts of support for Palestine. Police did not intervene to stop the burning of Israeli flags.

S. Arabia worried about origin of Lebanese products

BEIRUT -- The Lebanese minister of economy confirmed to the Saudi charge d'affaires in Beirut that all news about the infiltration of Israeli products to Saudi Arabia are untrue. The Saudi charge d'affaires stated after meeting with the Lebanese minister that his country did not ban imports from Lebanon but Saudi Arabia wanted to make sure of the source of Lebanese products. Sources added that Saudi Arabia have been requesting for over two weeks that permits be obtained from the Saudi embassy in Beirut regarding Lebanese exports, to Saudi Arabia provided the Lebanese foreign minister signs such a permit stating that the products do not violate Arab boycott laws.

Eritreans face Ethiopian push

DOHA -- Ethiopia pushed 20,000 of its troops against Eritrean rebels in Wadi Bareka in western Eritrea last week. The fighting has been going on for over a week. Eritrean rebels are fighting against the Ethiopian campaign which aims at driving them out and liquidating their bases in that area. The representative of the Eritrean Liberation Front Mohammed Othman Abu Bakr stated that heavy fighting is taking place to stop the progress of Ethiopian troops.

Beirut reconstruction will take six years

BEIRUT -- The Lebanese minister of public works stated that the reconstruction of downtown Beirut will start as of next spring and will take six years to finish. There was a general plan for reconstruction prepared in 1979 but since then many events have taken place thus requiring vast changes in the plan, the minister added.

Kuwait to buy 20 Mirage fighters

PARIS -- French air-industry circles reported that Merce Desau Aviation company will supply Kuwait with 20 Mirage F-10 planes. Kuwait announced officially last Tuesday that it has signed a contract with Desau but no details were given. This contract concluded by Kuwait represents an extension of a former contract whereby Kuwait received 20 planes of the same type. Kuwait pilots will leave for France to train on this type of aircraft. The contract comes at a time the Kuwaiti Airlines Company confirmed its request during 1980 to obtain eight Airbus planes S-310 and another three Airbus planes S-300.

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analysis

On the eve of elections:

American, German common interests threatened by nuclear missiles

By J. Gerald Livingston

WASHINGTON -- West Germany's debate about deploying medium-range American nuclear missiles highlights the inescapable paradox in any West German government's approach to East-West relations.

Whether Christian Democrats or Social Democrats govern in Bonn after the federal elections on 6 March, national interest will require from the government both loyalty to the Atlantic alliance and engagement with the Soviet Union--both a strong defence for the West and active negotiations with the East. Pursuing both courses simultaneously and deflecting American and Russian pressures to choose definitely between them is the essence of Bonn's security policy.

American missiles have moved centre stage in the election campaign. The Social Democrats, who oppose the Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles, are gaining on the Christian Democrats' Helmut Kohl, who unflinchingly supports eventual deployment.

In the end, whoever wins will turn away from any nuclear strategy that would upset the balance in Bonn's East-West policy -- and accepting all 572 Cruise and Pershing missiles scheduled for West Germany would threaten to do just that.

West German ties with the Americans and the alliance could be dragged into the already bitter election campaign if the Reagan administration fails to recognize that the debate about the missiles raises fundamental questions about relations between East and West Germany.

At present, these ties are questioned by only a tiny minority of West Germans. Among all the Europeans, they are the staunchest supporters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the greatest admirers of the United States and the readiest to resist any Soviet invasion. Public opinion surveys have been showing this for decades.

For the last few years, however, polls have also shown a growing opposition to nuclear weapons in West Germany, all of which are American and under American command.

Two-thirds of the West Germans who responded to the latest surveys were against the missiles. To be pro-American but against the Americans' new rockets is not inconsistent--it's natural in light of West Germany's geographic position and long-term national aspirations.

The division of Germany explains why Bonn, alone in all of West Europe, has a basic interest in close relations with the East--ties that go beyond commerce, bank loans and defence. The Russians hold half of Germany under their control. This gives them leverage over West Germany's future that American defence commitments can counterbalance but never match.

Christian Democratic election campaigners are as insistent as the Social Democrats that the question of eventual German reunification be kept open--"and not just theoretically," as their platform puts it. Konrad Adenauer, the great Christian Democratic Chancellor of the 1950's, was able to convince the electorate to support his policy of integration into NATO mainly by claiming that it was a way of eventually achieving West German goals in the East. Aoy West German defence strategy must still be justified in those terms.

West German opposition to deploying missiles drives home two lessons for Washington. First, Bonn considers arms control negotiations a crucial way to engage Moscow and eventually create more common interests between East and West Germany. The negotiations are a 1980's version of Willy Brandt's 1970's Ostpolitik.

Second, in 1979, when the US yielded to then Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's demand that it move in American missiles, the US accorded the West Germans a participatory role in developing European nuclear defence strategy. The US cannot



Bush and Kohl in Bonn: The US checking on its allies

oow reject their claim to have a continuing say about that strategy.

The US community of interest with West Germany rests as much on an American commitment to credible arms control as on an effective alliance defence strategy. Preserving that community of interest will require the administration to tell West Germans openly and soon that if the government they elect says it no longer wants the missiles, the US will provide other, equally effective means of nuclear defence.

Washington should reassure Bonn that it stands ready to carry out West Germans' suggestions that it withdraws obsolescent battlefield atomic weapons from their territory. Finally, the US must underscore nuclear co-determination by af-

firming that Bonn would have a veto over the firing of any American nuclear weapons in West Germany.

Such steps would take American missiles out of the German election campaign. They would constitute the kind of realistic adjustment to West Germany's East-West policy that one ally is entitled to expect from another.

(J. Gerald Livingston, research professor at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, is working on a book about West Germany in the 1970's.)

The New York Times

RDF will lead to Vietnam

WITH ALMOST 50 years, the largest new US military command since the Vietnam War came into existence on 1 January. It is the Rapid Deployment Force, originally conceived under the Carter administration as a small, quick expeditionary force for control of Middle East oil and trade but since grown to a massive, lumbering joint command which eventually will include up to half-million troops. Over the next five years, two army divisions, one Marine division, five air force tactical fighter wings and three navy aircraft carriers will be added to the present equipment of the force.

Partly because of its massive size, the RDF no longer is a rapid force, and some military analysts even worry that it may no longer be deployable. The very ability to perform its original mission is in question. In the words of Brown University analyst M.A. D'Amico, "it is militarily ineffective, physically wasteful and strategically dangerous."

In a recent report, D'Amico concluded that rather than being a relatively benign, stabilizing military option, the RDF provides a strong incentive to the United States to utilize military force prematurely and inappropriately; and to "reconstruct the doctrine responsible for the disaster in Vietnam."

With its immense troop size and the massive equipment commitment, the RDF has lost its specialized character. In fact, its troops have been training for conventional ground, sea and air warfare in the exercises in Oman and Egypt over the last year, with all of the permanent supply lines and logistics that would entail in actual battle. Thus, it appears this new force is really designed for long-term, high-intensity conflict.

The RDF mission--protecting Western oil and

trade--may sound reasonable to the post-bombast-entail American public. But so inspection, the entire operation is a smokescreen. According to its commander, Lt. Gen. Robert C. Kingdon, the RDF area of operation will extend far beyond the Gulf itself to cover 20 countries throughout Southwest Asia and East Africa.

Moreover, the need to protect Gulf oil and trade has changed dramatically since the RDF was conceived. Only eight percent of US imports oil currently comes from the Gulf, and in the area, with the European NATO countries following close behind. Given these changes, one wonders if the \$20 billion in start-up costs added to the permanent yearly maintenance costs

The Soviet Union itself does not need Gulf oil, and it would be politically foolish to be the cause of the disruption of oil to other Asian and African nations with whom the Soviets hope to be friendly. Moreover, the regional states don't want either the Soviet or the US military on their soil and are likely to go to great lengths to keep them out. This raises the specter of the United States struggling with the very nations it intends to defend for the right to carry out their defence.

The greatest danger in having such a useless force lies primarily in the urge to use it in order to justify its belated birth. However, with the American economy in disarray, the most annoying aspect of the RDF may be its total redundancy. One of its principal opponents, Sen. John Glenn (D, Ohio), points out that the United States has had a Rapid Deployment Force for over 200 years (the United States Marine Corps).

PNS

Viewpoint

Good news from North Africa

By Ya'acoub Jaber

THE GOOD news this week came from North Africa, where for the first time since 1976, King Hassan of Morocco and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid met at a border post in an attempt to settle their dispute over the Western Sahara.

The meeting, which came after years of unnecessary and unjustified hostility, should be viewed as a major breakthrough in later-Arab relations when taking into account the current split plaguing the Arab world.

It gains further significance when we recall that a few days before the two leaders met, Libya and Sudan were on the verge of war as Egypt stood ready to intervene on the side of its Sudanese allies.

The crisis ended quietly. In contrast to the dramatic moves which characterised its beginning, just how it was made to flare up, and for what purpose, is still a mystery.

So it has been very encouraging to see two Arab leaders trying to patch up their differences without mediation or outside intervention. Morocco and Algeria, after all, are two major Arab powers with considerable regional and international weight. But their capabilities have been severely undermined by their involvement in the Sahara dispute, which laid heavy burdens on their military and financial assets.

Despite the distance separating them from the confrontation line with Israel, the two countries contributed effectively to the Arab war effort and never hesitated to rush aid, help in time of need. In the 1973 war, Moroccan troops fought bravely alongside Syrian forces at the Golan front. In the meantime, Algeria sent hundreds of fully-equipped tanks to Egypt to help Egyptian forces cope with the huge American weapons deliveries to Israel.

And during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, Algeria was the sole Arab country to send arms, worth \$2.2 million, to the PLO forces. It was no coincidence that Algeria was chosen as the venue for the latest crucial meeting of the Palestine National Council.

Now that the leaders of the two countries have decided to talk, there is a good chance for agreement on an acceptable formula ending their dispute and sparing their peoples the heavy cost of fighting. Their action could set an example for other Arab leaders to follow in settling marginal but extremely harmful conflicts.

THE RESOLUTIONS of the Palestine National Council, President Reagan's remarks on the Middle East and the oil price crisis are the main subjects in this week's Arabic newspaper editorials.

The Cairo daily Al-Gomhuriya writes that the PNC resolutions reflect the PLO's new political flexibility. This flexibility comes in spite of the organizations realization that the political option does not mean dropping other options--diplomacy without power cannot produce positive results.

The paper remarks that the final communiqué of the PNC meeting did not contain an absolute rejection of President Reagan's Middle East peace plan, although the plan does not meet the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people.

Newspapers in the Gulf have unanimously welcomed the PNC decisions, describing them as the basis for Arab solidarity stemming from Palestinian national unity.

The Qatari newspaper Al-Arab notes that the debates which took place at the council session demonstrated the keenness of different Palestinian groups to strengthen their national unity as the basis for Palestinian action.

"The PNC decisions have been characterised by a clarity of vision regarding the future of the Palestinian cause," the paper writes.

Another Qatari newspaper, Al-Raya, says the most prominent success of the Algiers meeting was the reaffirmation of Palestinian national unity, which could eventually prove to be the decisive element in balancing the Arab-Israeli equation.

The paper expresses the view that the Palestinian revolution has opened the way towards a just solution to the Palestinian problem by endorsing the Fez peace initiative as a basis for a solution.

Al-Raya calls on the United States, if it is really serious about peace, to seek a just solution that recognizes the Palestinians' rights

and restores security and stability to this sensitive part of the world.

"If Washington fails to do so, it will prove itself ignorant of how the Palestinian and Arab struggle will develop once the edge of despair is reached," the paper says.

In conclusion, the paper writes that the Palestinian leadership has done its part, and the ball is now in the court of the Americans, the Europeans, the Soviets and finally the Arabs, regardless of their affiliations and political leanings.

The Saudi newspaper Okaz hails the PNC resolutions as a proof of the PLO's ability to stand up to the challenges facing the Palestinian question, as well as other issues such as the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and the Iraq-Iran war.

The Saudi paper describes the PNC decisions as the natural prelude to Arab solidarity, emanating from Palestinian national unity. This unity, it says, has been enhanced and strengthened at the Algiers conference, and urges Arab states to give full backing to the PNC decisions with a view to putting them into effect.

The Saudi daily Al-Yom stresses the inevitability of strong Arab backing for the Palestinian struggle, to enable it to achieve its goals after the PLO leadership has endorsed the peace initiative which Arab leaders had unanimously agreed upon at their summit in Fez. It adds that following the PNC conference, the Palestinians will have to take a series of active moves, as the Zionist danger is now more tangible than ever before.

Al-Bilad, another Saudi newspaper, describes the recent Palestinian activity as rational and constructive, adding that the PNC resolutions have defined the strategic dimensions of movement in the next stage.

In Kuwait, Al-Rai Al-Aam newspaper writes that the PNC decisions have reaffirmed the Palestinian people's desire for peace, as well as

the strength of their desire for unity and solidarity.

"The success of the PNC in reaffirming the unity and cohesion of the PLO and the maintenance of a solid front are the most prominent outcome of the Algiers meeting," the Kuwaiti paper notes.

On President Reagan's recent remarks, Al-Ithidha expresses the view that the president's reference to a homeland for the Palestinians instead of a state is a retreat, and not progress as some imagine.

"However, this sudden flow of statements on the Middle East by President Reagan indicates that he is anxious to speed up moves towards a Middle East settlement, now that he has placed the reputation of his administration and the credibility of his country at stake by forwarding his peace initiative," the paper writes.

On the oil price crisis, Al-Wihda newspaper of Abu Dhabi suggests that Gulf oil producing states reduce their production substantially in order to maintain their current prices.

It says that such reduction which could reach complete halt of production will solve the problem of the oil glut in the international market on the one hand and protect this natural wealth on the other.

It goes on to say that such reduction or halt of production is bound to affect the revenues of the producing states, but this can be made up for by drawing deposits accumulated in western banks so that the effect can be minimized.

On last week's tension along the Libyan-Sudanese-Egyptian borders, the Tunisian French-language newspaper, Le Matin, calls on the three Arab states to point their weapons at the enemy of the Arab people; Israel. Instead of fighting among themselves on questions which are not related to them.

The paper wonders if Libya really poses such a threat that requires large-scale military movement by a superpower.

In Amman, Ad-Dustour newspaper comments that the Israeli goals in Lebanon have developed into something that conflicts with the US strategy in that country.

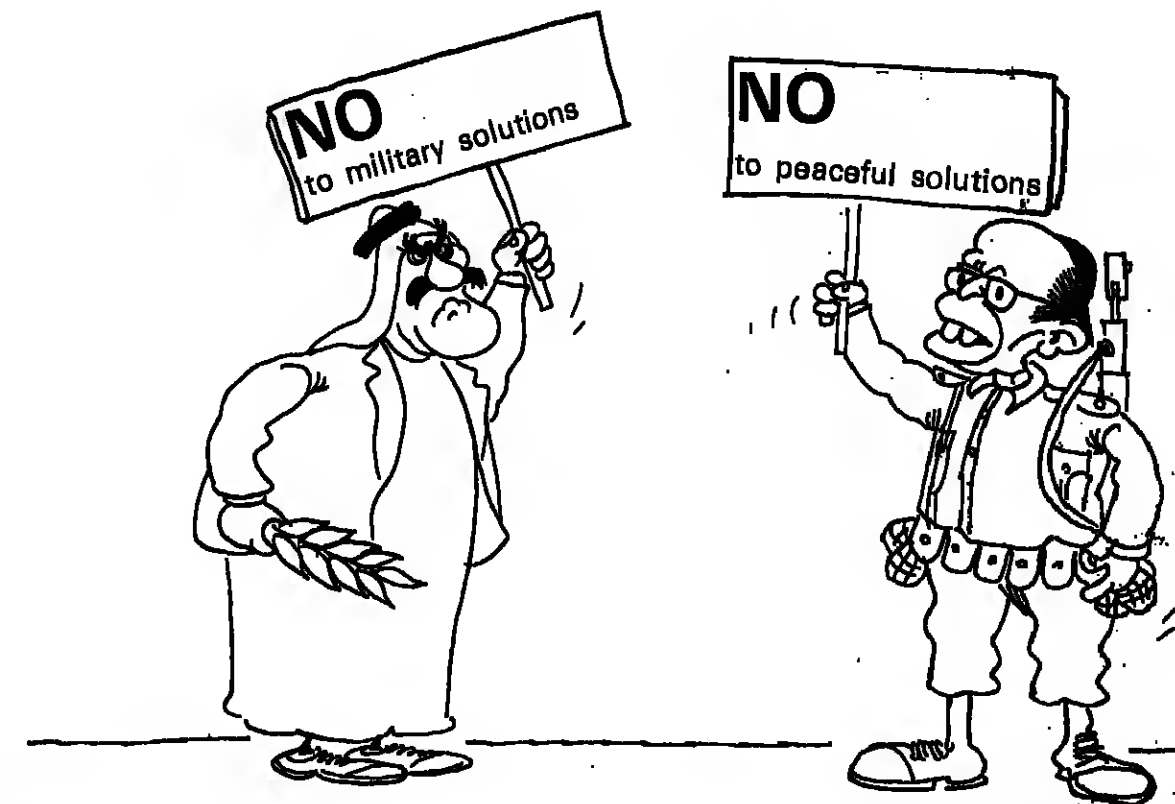
The paper explains that after the Arabs, along with the PLO, had come out with their peace initiative at the Fez summit, the ball was moved into the US court, and Washington is becoming increasingly embarrassed by the continuation of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon. It wants a quick end to that occupation so that it might devote the few remaining months to promote its peace efforts in the Middle East.

Stressing the importance of the time element, Ad-Dustour warns of the consequences that would result from the passing of this year without any progress towards a settlement.

Al-Rai newspaper of Amman writes that the threats and dangers to which Palestinians in South Lebanon are exposed are being manipulated by Israel. They give its occupation of the area a humanitarian guise through pretending that its presence guarantees protection for the Palestinians there.

"Israel is seeking to change its international image as the killer of Palestinian women and children at Sabra and Shatila by posing as the protector of Palestinians in South Lebanon," the paper adds.

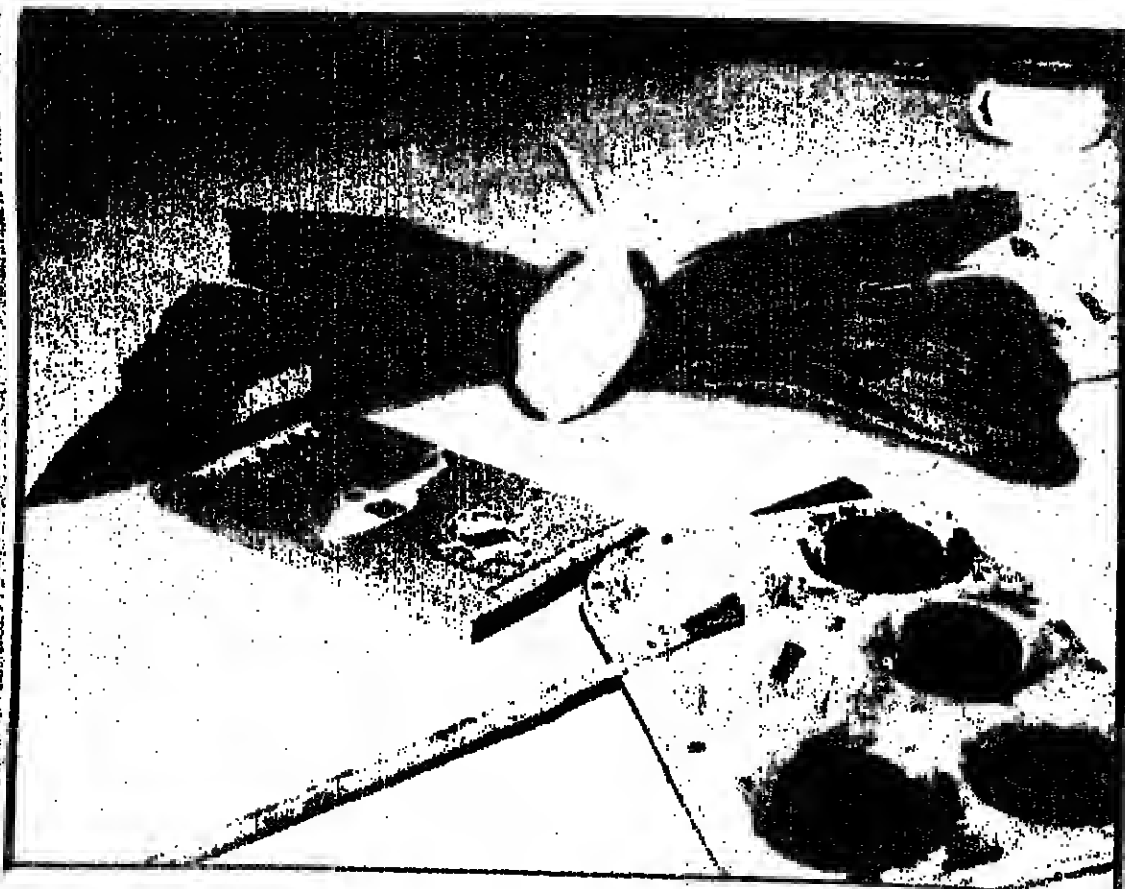
It goes on to say that this dirty Israeli game must not be allowed to continue. The killers cannot be disguised in the robes of gallant knights. "It is high time for the world community, represented in the UN Truce-keeping force as well as the Multinational Force to shoulder its responsibility towards protecting Palestinians against the Israeli-led terrorism in Southern Lebanon," Al-Rai writes.



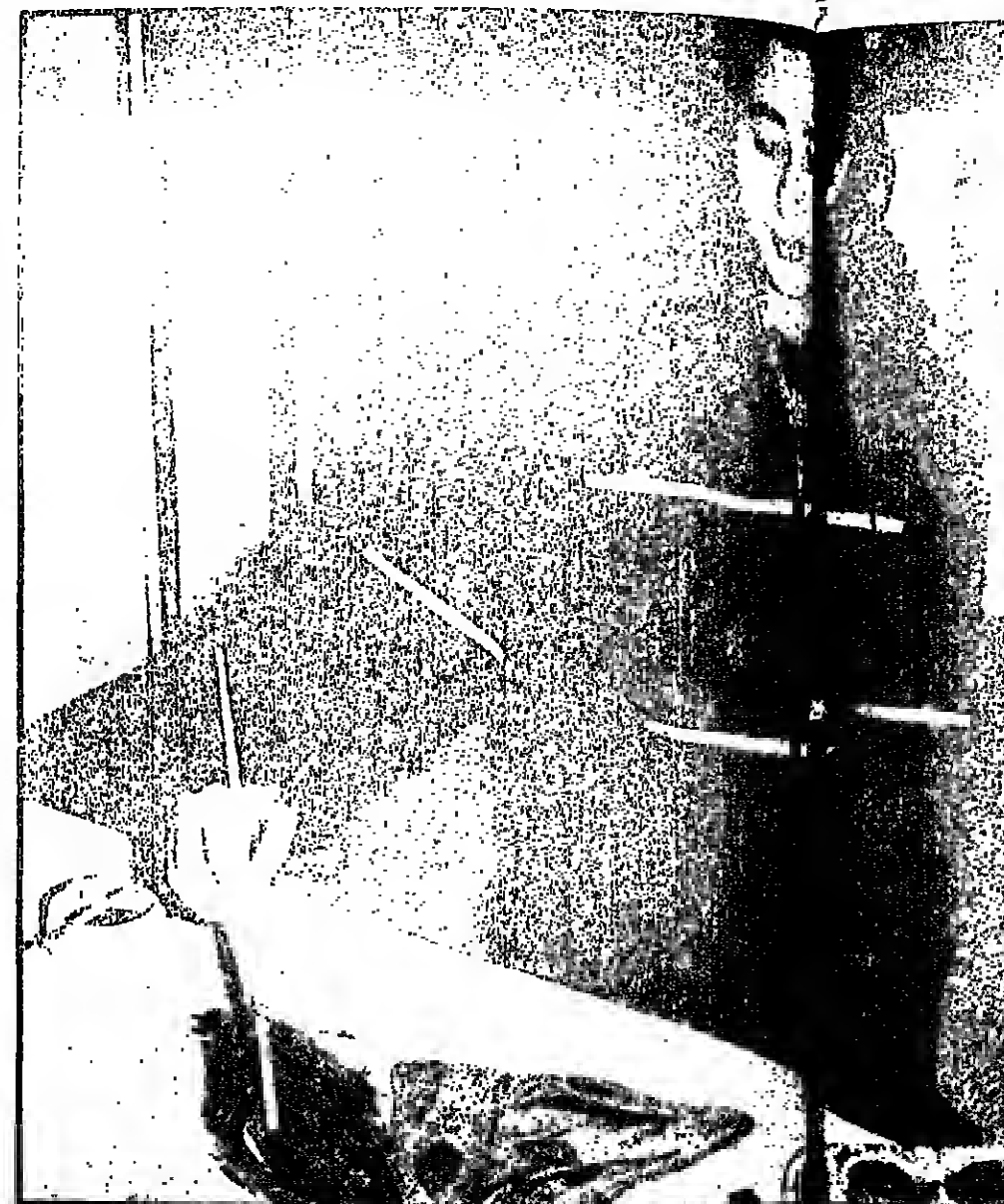
Arab Editorial Opinion



Children dreamland



A painting kit



A young artist at work



A place just for kids

WHAT COULD be more fun for an eight-year-old than spending the afternoon with a blank sheet of paper, a paintbrush and pots filled with a rainbow of colours? Or digging anxious little fingers into a large chunk of gooey grey clay, and, with a few creatively placed pinches here and there—voilà! A masterpiece of pottery has been created for Mum.

Whether a child wants to create his own adventure in play or instead share the world of a legendary hero while listening to tales during story hour, at the Haya Arts Centre the child is free to choose his afternoon's pleasure.

The Haya Centre in Shmeisani provides children and young adults with unique facilities for creative expression and social development. Operating on a year-round basis, activities including painting, dance, pottery, theatre, and handicraft are offered to children ranging from ages 6-16.

Established in 1976, the centre was created with the aid of a gift from former Empress Farah of Iran. It receives its basic funding from His Majesty King Hussein and it continues to be supported by private donors and charitable organizations.

For a small enrolment fee, children

may come and use the facilities at any time from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. any day except Tuesday and Friday.

Classes in the winter months are held after school, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., and in the summer months classes are also held in the morning.

A child may participate individually in any activity he prefers—painting, pottery, or play—he may also participate in a regularly scheduled class or group session.

Words and pictures by Jacquelyn Hutz

In this way a child may continually vary his activities. Being one area for as long as he is interested or for as long as a scheduled class is in session. Most classes, such as painting, dance, ballet, run for approximately three months, with new activities arranged continually every few months.

The Haya Centre also houses a stage for theatrical performances, and a gymnasium for indoor sports and a library.

Members also enjoy the availability of a television where daily they may view a scheduled film.

The large, modern building surrounding the centre provides children with a unique,

varied playground where they may ride bicycles supplied by the Haya Centre, roller skate, or play on the playground equipment. Specific and separated areas have been created for each outdoor activity for the children's convenience and safety.

Haya Centre Director Nabil Sawalha intends to establish an outdoor theatre to be actively used during summer months to generate community involvement and interest in Children's theatre. Mr. Sawalha also has set 1983 plans to expand facilities to include a Children's Museum where children may explore scientific and historic subjects, and study their native Jordanian heritage.

Currently there are some 1,500 children enrolled at the centre. But the number of children attending and using the facilities there is much greater since the centre is open to visits from Amman school children. Regularly, different schools schedule field trips to the centre to allow the schoolchildren to participate in the various Haya programmes.

The Haya Centre also maintains a mobile puppet theatre which travels throughout Jordan to perform for schools in towns and villages.

It is now holding evening classes for adults in ballet and ceramics and is continually interested in meeting people with talents in the arts to instruct adult classes.



Various stages in pottery making

The Jerusalem Star

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Editorial

A costly price for peace

THE FLURRY of diplomatic activity presently underway by Philip Habib to speed up withdrawal negotiations between Israel and Lebanon has curiously given way to a spate of speculation that a suitable and just agreement between the two countries is in reach.

It is an act of self-delusion to believe that an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon will not come at any cost to the Lebanese government. The government of Lebanon is still resisting Israel's demands for early warning posts in southern Lebanon as an infringement of its sovereignty. And for Lebanon to accept Israel's call for normalisation of relations between the two countries, complete with open borders and bilateral trade, would be tantamount to economic, not to mention political suicide for the battered nation.

It is not only means that Arab countries would at least in principle be obliged not to conduct open economic and political relations with Lebanon, thereby isolating it at a time when it needs increased ties with the Arab world to ensure its recovery from eight years of bloody conflict and a destructive foreign invasion. Israel's conception of economic bilateral relations would be to flood the fledgling Lebanese market with Israeli goods, thus permanently preventing the economy of Lebanon from ever becoming self-sufficient and viable again.

In spite of all this, the Reagan administration is now putting forth the scenario to the world that an accord between the two countries may be reached at any time. Suppose an agreement is reached. Will it in any way reflect the needs and

aspirations of the country that was occupied illegally and immorally by a foreign military power?

What makes an Israeli success in Lebanon even more likely is the hesitancy, indeed the inability, of the US to sponsor a fair settlement for the Lebanese people. The US has been unable to force Israel to retract one iota from its impossible demands on the Lebanese, despite all the rhetoric emanating from the White House and the State Department accusing Israel of stalling and sabotaging the withdrawal negotiations.

The Arab world should be observing the events of the Lebanese-Israeli "peace talks" closely, for there is a valuable lesson to be learned from them. If the Americans are incapable of even retaining an air of credibility with the Lebanese by pressuring Israel to withdraw from that Arab country, what is to stop Israel from imposing its will at definition of "peace" on other Arab countries, least of all the Palestinians in the same way?

A pattern is thus emerging in the Middle East beginning with the neutralizing of Egypt and Begin and the US through Camp David and now evident in the debate in Lebanon at the floundering of the Reagan peace initiative. A volatile mixture of Israeli intransigence coupled with US impotence appears to be spilling over into the Arab nations. The Arabs must prepare themselves to meet still another type of land annexation, for the gains of any kind of Israeli "peace" imposed on Lebanon will not differ much from the costs of war for the Arab world, and especially for the Palestinian people.

Kamel

Abu

Jaber



"The PNC: some thoughts"

Greetings to Jerusalem!

FEW PEOPLE expected that soon after emerging from the ashes of Beirut and the shattering demoralizing Sabra and Shatila massacres, the Palestinian leadership could take the sober decisions it took in Algiers. In itself, the sixteenth session of the Palestine National Council was a resounding success. No one at this moment can predict the future and proclaim with absolute certainty whether it will achieve results.

The convention itself was a success. A tribute to the tenacious spirit of a free people who, though in diaspora and seemingly a house divided over issues of destiny, could calmly convene in distant Algiers and discuss their past, present and future in a democratic fashion.

The atmosphere was tense, for the discussions centered on matters of principle, land, interests and peoples. The moderates were no less nationalistic than the radicals or the rejectionists. And though termed "terrorists" by the Israelis and their sympathizers, the Palestinian leadership, Arafat, Habbash, Hawatmeh, Jibril and others debated with words not bullets. The clash of ideas did not end, as some hoped and perhaps even worked-for, a failure, a fiasco, but, in a responsible manifesto declaring to its own people, indeed to the world, that there is a people wanting peace not war, life not death.

Mr. Yasser Arafat once more, reelected chairman of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, put it very succinctly when he stated, "we must be practical and rational." Also later when he added, "when I speak of moderation I do not mean the giving-up of any of our rights." Years, maybe decades from now, when the excitement and heat of the present circumstances abate, and people can think about the current events with more detachment and candour, the Algiers Palestine manifesto will give further proof, even emphasize that the Palestinian movement is indeed a revolution, not just a rebellion. For, what differentiates a revolution from a rebellion is its capacity for durability as well as non-negotiability.

A revolution has, or makes for itself, a breathing space: it has or should have a long term programme of action that may bend here or there under the weight of circumstances without losing its direction. Besides tactics, movement must have a clear strategy towards which it must work. Surely with its social, economic and political content the Palestinian movement has proven itself a revolution.

It should not be forgotten that a revolution need not depend on the use of violence at all times. Perhaps the political task should will prove just as difficult as the military tasks.

The Algiers Palestine National Council will also remain not only a triumph of moderation but of deliberate cool-headed action. While political aspects of the struggle was emphasized, the military was not altogether abandoned. Its manifesto speaks of Palestinian, indeed Arab desire to achieve peace through peaceful means: to live and let live. It also speaks of the independence of the Palestinian decision, for, in spite of the military, political and financial constraints; and in spite of the diaspora of the Palestinian themselves, the decisions that were taken were, in the final analysis, Palestinian.

Many ill wishes had hoped that the will of the Palestinians had been broken. That in the aftermath of Beirut, and especially after Sabra and Shatila, the Palestinians would agree to anything. Not only that, some observers even thought that now that they have been thus scattered, meaningful communication amongst themselves and also with others would be improbable. It is within this frame of reference that one may term the end result of the council a success. A political success reflecting the will of a people refusing to lie down and let the world of Menachem Begin walk over it.

In simple terms, the decisions were a reorganization of the internal affairs of the Palestinians as well as a reorganization of their priorities for the foreseeable future.

No doors were closed on any individual or idea. The decisions emphasized following the peaceful path to the end meanwhile not neglecting other means that may present themselves the decisions did not preclude a consideration of the Reagan initiative should that be modified to recognize their existence, their right of return and their right for an independent Palestinian state to be considered with Jordan. Nor did the decisions preclude future initiatives and actions from elsewhere be they or anyone else. The Fez Arab Peace Plan was singularly accepted with forthright courage.

Finally, the convention exposed Israeli greed and intransigence. The kind of peace has been extended and it is time that the Western world, which was so quick to term them "terrorists" realize that the Palestinians can also be peacemakers.

"We consider the Israeli far more dangerous than the Arab." - Marjorie G. Board of Deputies of British Jews.

MARCH 1983

opinion

Israel's deepening wound

By Meron Benvenisti

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM--The report of the inquiry into the massacre in Sabra and Shatila fell like an ax upon a deep division in the Israeli body politic, further deepening the wound. In the aftermath of its publication, the confrontation between Menachem Begin's conservative, nationalist bloc and the moderate, liberal opposition erupted in open violence. The report drew attention to one ingredient of this conflict--Ariel Sharon's responsibility--but the inquiry may now be overwhelmed by the division itself.

The commission of inquiry investigated only three days in the 150-day Lebanese campaign. It was outside the scope of the inquiry to consider the political, ethical and military culture in which the war was conceived and conducted. In establishing Israel's indirect responsibility for the bloodshed in Sabra and Shatila, the inquiry pointed to the broader problem described by Gen. Amos Yaron, one of the nine men under investigation: "The whole system manifested insensitivity. On this point, everyone showed insensitivity. Pure and simple. Nothing else." But it was not the commission's duty to reflect on the effects of 100 years of war with the Arabs and 15 years of occupation--on the erosion of such values as human life, human dignity and human rights that may be the cause of this insensitivity.

The ethical norms upheld by the panel have seldom been applied elsewhere. Its distinguished report speaks for itself: "The responsibility (should) be placed not just on the perpetrators, but also on those who could and should have prevented the commission of those deeds, which must be condemned." This obligation "should be applied to every civilized nation." But the commission was well aware that these exalted norms are not universally accepted in Israel: "We do not deceive ourselves that the results of this inquiry will convince or satisfy those who have prejudice or selective consciousness, but the inquiry was not intended for such people."

Indeed, there are as many Israelis who vehemently reject the commission's norms as there are those who wholeheartedly endorse them. The political confrontation between them is, in essence, an ethical gap. But the shock waves caused by the report are not ethical; they are political. Many Israelis skinned over the long report until they reached the section on "personal responsibility" -- for only it will have political consequences.

The ruling coalition is already trying to evade the ethical issue--invoking "democratic principles" in preparation for

new elections. In fact, they are trying to replace justice by electoral power. The opposition Labour Alignment called for the "full implementation of the inquiry recommendations." But knowing all too well its own electoral weakness, Labour refrained from demanding that the government resign. The cabinet procrastinated at length before deciding to implement the recommendations--and even then its decision was nuclear and narrowly focused on the question of Ariel Sharon's career. In the end, the result may be to pre-empt a genuine political debate: Labour had hoped to replace the government without elections, and when the cabinet accepted the commission's recommendations, the opposition found that its political arsenal was empty.

The immediate political question is clear: Mr. Sharon's future. The commission minced no words in establishing his principal responsibility for the "disregard and indifference to the dangers of acts of vengeance and bloodshed committed by the Phalangists." It is left to historians to reflect on Mr. Sharon's larger responsibility for taking Israel into the war that unleashed today's bitter debate. It was, after all, at his behest that Israelis were faced for the first time with the dilemma of whether to obey their conscience or the orders of their democratic government--a choice between their humanitarian values and their nationalism. Mr. Sharon is the villain in the drama--and rightly so.

It should be a grave mistake, however, to personify the political and social crisis in Israel--and certainly Mr. Sharon's demise will not significantly change the situation. He was only a catalyst; the forces he helped to unleash will outlive him, as will the forces mobilized to oppose him. The political fallout of the inquiry's recommendations obscures the clear ethical norms it sought to establish.

However, in the upheaval, something else has been obscured. The massacre and indeed the Lebanese war itself are but side issues distracting us from the real political and ethical problem--the future of the West Bank and Gaza. If Israeli political unrest and Arab procrastination are allowed to prolong the present diplomatic impasse, Israel's annexation of the territories will soon reach the point of no return. Then, the political culture of those Israelis who reject the norms upheld by the inquiry will inevitably triumph--and the commission's magnificent expression of humanism will become a forgotten document.

Meron Benvenisti, Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem from 1973 to 1978, conducted the West Bank Data Base project, a study of Israeli land policy.

The massacre of Assam: Gandhi's shame

By Arab writer

Ad-Dustour columnist

MRS. INDIRA GANDHI has to excuse us for our non courteous frankness towards the attitude of her government regarding the massacres of Muslims in Assam. This incident brings shame upon the government and the people of India and makes us fear from the gloomy future awaiting Muslims there so long as political parties use Muslims as scapegoats on the altar of political ambitions and gains and so long as the Muslim minority remains an easy target to communal conflicts which occur every now and then.

It is deplorable that the country which produced a great leader like Gandhi with his tolerant humanitarian philosophy may adopt such savagery and barbarity by allowing anarchists to attack the camps of poor refugees from Bangladesh and to burn their homes and kill their women, men and children just because they were Muslims!

What is the difference between Mrs. Gandhi's silence towards these massacres and that of Sharon towards Sabra and Shatila? Why does the world condemn Nazi barbarism and does not condemn that of India so long as the crime and its primitive motives are the same?

Would Indira Gandhi like to see Muslims take revenge from thousands of Indians scattered through the Arab countries? We do not agree to this principle of vengeance and we oppose it not only because the Indian among Arabs is a guest but also because our beliefs and traditions give us immunity against rancour.

We used to read about the massacres of Muslims in India and feel sad and sorry believing that reason will prevail and the Indian government will punish criminals and do something to protect its citizenry, but after the Assam massacre we cannot remain silent as we see Indira Gandhi forget about the victims in the middle of her political victories in recent elections.

Indira's talk about democracy in India is a silly joke so long as democracy is closing its eyes to the violation of the rights of man in India and to the massacres of



Prime Minister Indira Gandhi

Muslims.

As we doubt that this talk will be able to change India's policy regarding the extermination of Muslims in India, we request from Muslim leaders who will attend the non-aligned countries conference in New Delhi to raise this question with Mrs. Gandhi and to caution her that the continuation of such acts will urge Islamic countries to react with more than protests. This is what we hope will happen, unless our governments will follow the same "cop" attitude with which they received the news about the massacres of Muslims in the Philippines and Burma, in which case we shall refrain from raising the question with Indira Gandhi.

In this case the Muslims of India will have to forget about Muslim governments and peoples, and will have to defend their survival through patience, faith and arms!



letters

Ya'qoub Salm was right!

To the editor:
Mr. Ya'qoub Salm's piece last week (24 February) about the new Amman is sarcastic yet very true. You need only to drive, very carefully, around the city to discover how many roads have become unsuitable for use by civilian vehicles. Our roads gave up easily to the swarming rivers of mulling snow that submerged them in a very short period of time. People seem to realize that winters are becoming harder and they keep wondering how it will all look like in a two or three years if we don't learn to cope and start building our roads and sewage systems to handle the bad winters that are coming. Think God that this winter passed without major accidents, but I wonder how lucky we will be next winter!
Samuel Odeh
Amman

National day for heritage

To the editor:
Your article on vandalism in Petra (24 February) opened old wounds for me. Last summer I visited Petra and was shocked to see how school boys treated the ancient city. The place was literally invaded by them and when they left, scars of their invasion were permanently engraved on the rocks of the Nabataean site. I think that it is not enough to send messages to schools and social institutions informing them of their duty to enlighten the minds of our children where it concerns the nation's heritage, but I would also add that monuments must be celebrated annually in Jordan. It is not only the youngsters who are in need of direction, but also the adults who raise them.
Salim Hakim
Amman

PLO should start dialogue

To the editor:
The PLO should immediately begin an open and sincere dialogue with the Jewish Americans who were just excommunicated from their religion by the Supreme Rabbinical Court of America. It is of the utmost importance that the PLO forge an alliance with the Jewish opponents of Zionism and Zionism aims against the Arab people. This could only help strengthen the bargaining position of the PLO in case of any dialogue in the future with the United States. It could also pave the way for further and more detailed PLO contact with Israeli opponents of Israeli expansionism and supporters of Palestinian self-determination. The American people must be made aware that Israel is not the monopoly it purports to be among people of the Jewish faith.
Mrs. Linda Fetterolf
Zarqa

books

Amin Malhas, voice of the suffering ordinary man

By Henry Motar

Special to the Star

THE PALESTINIAN question stands as the greatest tragedy that the Arab Middle East has experienced and has come to form the central core of many literary interpretations and works.

Yet it never exhausts the need for the world to be reminded of the catastrophic ramifications of this harassing experience. And these pictures of it can be rummaged nostalgically, yearningly sentimental or starkly realistic.

This obsession with the Palestinian question that has been partly reflected in the Palestinian short story, which lies perhaps never been more revealing than in the hands of Amin Malhas.

Amin's interest in the short story can be traced in three collections, two of which—"Stories derived from Reality" and "Abut Mustaf and Other Stories"—appeared respectively in Jerusalem in 1952 and in Amman in 1972.

The author has had a distinguished career in the field of education, first under the British Mandate from 1942 to 1948, and later with the UN RWA and the Jordanian Ministry of Education. His, like many a Palestinian intellectual, has been a continual struggle for survival and for the rearing of his children.

Amin's short story can be immediately described as the story of the heroic struggle and of the painful sufferings of the ordinary lower-class Palestinian. It is a deeply felt sympathy with the struggling dwellers of the dark-alleyed and close-ventilated poor houses of the old city of Jerusalem, with whom he shared the bitter struggle for survival.

His short stories are the tribute he paid to the

real defenders of Jerusalem, who fought their battle wholeheartedly with their comrades—the poor peasantry around the city—against the Zionist invaders.

And it is the various minor, but remarkably memorable, heroisms of his compatriots that Amin Malhas seeks to record. And when the heroic struggle was thwarted, it was the tragedy of the homelessness, poverty, and heart-gnawing frustration of those heroic lovers of Jerusalem that Amin, the true son of the Holy City, sensitized the kept alive in ink.

Added to the pointedness of the whole thing, Amin was sharp-sighted enough to see the mother city which he so dearly loved forsaken by elements of its social and political leadership who were able to evade the struggle and to seek refuge elsewhere.

Amin's short stories can perhaps be considered as the realistic literary expression of the socio-economic aspect of the Palestinian Tragedy.

The purely literary value of his works is no less remarkable. He seems to carry literary effect—often hurrying on drama-like suspense—through three main techniques: the concentration on one main point of view or issue which he sought to expound in each story, the clear-cut way of delineating his central characters and the felicitous sincerity and simplicity of his language (one-skillfully manipulated in both tragic and satirical situations).

The stories often carry a multiplicity of ideas that together serve to present a situation or stance. But it is not difficult to trace in each story the main topic from among the network of ideas whose real purpose is to enhance the effect of the chief one.

Thus such stories as "Marzouq," "Sabriyyeh," "Who is the Thief?," "Who is the Murderer?," "An International Refugee Blanket," "The Mad man," "The Fugitive" and "Apple and Bread"—endeavour to reveal the miserable circumstances that the different representatives of the lower-

classes Jerusalem society suffered after the 1948 debacle and exodus.

"Sabriyyeh" and "Apple and Bread" delve deep into the effect of deprivation and extreme poverty on two growing girls. Sabriyyeh had to work as a servant at the house of a relatively well-off family just to ward off the cruelty of a wine-addicted father and also to steal some small hours from her daily household work to attend school and learn.

"Apple and Bread," on the other hand, relates the desperation of a girl, so hungry that she wishes she could be carried to hospital just to have the chance of receiving the present of a few apples, a fruit and she had never eaten.

"Who is the Thief?" and "Who is the murderer?" are the stories of two supporters of two big indigent families, who were driven to crime just to feed the waiting hungry mouths: the one stealing some kitchen utensils, and the other overworking his sick body to death, while the only real criminal was social injustice.

"An International Refugee Blanket" and "The Fugitive" relate the stories of two youngsters who had nothing left to do but to join the underworld of beggary and to suffer the meagre treatment of better-off but odious hearts.

Another major theme that runs through many of Amin's short stories is the heroism which certain simple defenders of Jerusalem and sub-villages went through.

These themes are expounded respectively in "The Red Lines" and in "Via Dolorosa," on the one hand; and in "Yearning and Re-Union" and in "The Little Bundle," on the other hand.

The "Red Lines" underlines the heroic sacrifice of Heya Balabai, the teacher at the girls' school in the village of Delr Yassi. She chose to die with her pupils, when the people of the village were massacred at the hands of Zionist brigands, rather than forsake her trust and seek safety at her home in Jerusalem.

A third category of Amin's stories, including "The Life-Time Candles," "Marzouq" and "Dunya," have a more personal touch. These have to recall the author's recollections of his poverty-stricken childhood and the struggles of his early manhood.

And finally two stories, in particular, "My Dear Laura" and "Ya Awazil Falilun" try to launch an ironic lampoon against certain sections of the society who stupidly enough, and in a contempt of what is native and original, imitate foreign manners and speech.

The other two literary techniques employed by Amin's short stories—namely his characterisation and his simple but masterful manipulation of language—are the by-effects but paradoxically enough the bulwarks of the main theme in each story.

First, the arch-character of each story is cleverly and strikingly delineated with subtle colours and shades. Secondly, the simple language once helps to underline the purport of the story, the character-structure of the hero or heroine, and the dramatic effect of the story's tone. In particular, the author's language is imbued with pathos for the deserving characters and with bitter double-dealing for the ridiculous and the trait scum.

Naturally enough, it seems difficult to fit into one of the above-mentioned literary techniques from another. All three actually help and interact to produce the necessary effect.

And what gives many of Amin's stories a sense of an overall unity is the presence therein of a moderate mother, who, while looking down on her children and family to the extent of trying hard to withhold her tears, gives all her blessings and pitifully and patiently prays for their good. This mother, in my opinion, is a symbol of suffering Palestine.

A pleasing personal style

By Vaeon Betrouni

Special to the Star

Two paintings of Omar Bsoul were recently shown at the annual exhibition of Jordanian Artists and were exceptional in using an experimental medium. We can now see more of his work at the Alia Art Gallery in a one-man show that will last until March 6th.

Born in Irbid, Omar Bsoul is virtually self-taught as an artist, dabbling in painting as a hobby when a boy and later developing his art by visiting exhibitions in Jordan, Syria and Iraq.

He started traditionally with classical forms, portraits and landscapes in oil and watercolour and still likes to work tangible shapes into the more abstract but highly personal style he later achieved. About two years ago after many attempts (200 was quoted) he came alone to working in his present medium of wax and pastel.

He works in three stages. Firstly he lays down six different colours on top of each other. Secondly, he melts wax at boiling point with a pastel colour and this is put down on an already outlined sketch. Thirdly, detail is etched in with a knife or he uses the knife to dig down to another colour to achieve specific effects.

And the effects are interesting, lending themselves well to the timeless images that Omar seeks to create in a range of muted eastern colours.

The waxy poster-like surface is either worked into recognisable human form or indulges in pure abstract meanderings. When depicting heads or figures, Omar likes to be global and they are distinctly African or Arab, part European but because of the trunk, elephantine shapes and grey colour the appeal is that of primitive art.

The large central mass of figures, sometimes adorned with decorative headgear, sometimes accompanied by domestic animals, fish and artifacts, sometimes with slogans scratched in (but this is never fully explored) and always bordered by feathery leaves and small flowers have altogether the impact of an ancient totem pole wielding power with its appeal to basic instincts.

The relationship of his humans to objects and flora also reflects Omar's philosophy that man is master of the universe, that animals and nature are designed to serve him and that woman who launches growth can carry on should man destroy himself. This is expressed not through representation of mechanistic power but by being central in a primitive scheme.

These paintings differ greatly in feeling from the abstracts which are more trial runs in technique, either playing on colour relationships or on the handling of the wax and then left to work on the imagination of the viewer. They are more lightweight and less snuffing. Using a mixture of watercolour and wax still lifes of vases or plants can be discerned through a freckled veil of wax (achieved by dropping the wax from a height) or shapes are controlled by leaving blank waxed areas in a medley of colour. These are generally less well executed and lack impact but track the artist's experiments and development.

Omar Bsoul's curious combination of primitive and classical elements with reminiscences of decorative Islamic art coarsened through by arteries of wax and colour heaving the whole into an abstract mould are surprisingly successful.

He somehow escapes the past and also escapes being categorised into any modern art idiom.



Left: Andrei Gonorov, chief director of the theatre. Right: a scene from the play "The life of Klim Samgin," based on Maxim Gorky's novel of the same name.

Moscow's Mayakovsky Theatre celebrates 60 years of work

The Mayakovsky Theatre is now in its 60th year. The theatre's first director Vsevolod Meyerhold, an outstanding Soviet producer, mounted several plays about the country's new life, written by Nikolai Pogodin, Vsevolod Vishnevsky and Alexander Korneichuk.

Another leading director, Nikolai Okhlopkov, was in charge of the theatre for 20 years, during World War II included, and together with the theatre's first-class actors was largely responsible for such classics of the Soviet theatre as "The Irkutsk Story" and "Tanya" by Alexei Arbusov, "The Ocean" by Alexander Shlein and others.

At present the company has a vast repertoire and such actors as Armen Dzhigarkhanyan, Alexander Lazarev, Tatyana Doronina and Svetlana Nemolyayeva.

It performs Russian and foreign classics as well as plays by modern authors.

Guitar recital

William Matthews, virtuoso guitarist and lutanist, will perform in Jordan the first week of March. Mr. Matthews was born in Brooklyn and began study of the guitar at thirteen. He made his debut in New York in 1965. Since then he has been acclaimed by music critics and has been acknowledged as "among the greatest of the guitar greats." Free tickets for his Amman concert are available at the American Centre. Mr. Matthews will perform at Yarmouk University.

A dramatist of lost souls ---



Tennessee Williams—a life dominated by his Southern childhood

AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHT Tennessee Williams died at his New York home this week. Williams was acknowledged as one of the major playwrights of this century for his powerful plays, including "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof," "The Glass Menagerie," "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "The Rose Tattoo."

The following appreciation of his work is taken from "The World of Tennessee Williams" by Richard F. Leavitt.

Tennessee was a dramatist of lost souls. His milieu was the South, a tense and unconstructed locale typical only if an environment we all inhabit.

In the mythology of his work, the South is an antebellum mansion of faded elegance inhabited by genteel dreamers, misfits, fugitives and outcasts—losers who are not meant to win.

His work echoes an awareness of loneliness and loss, a sense of corruption and the physical violence which is an aspect of southern romanticism.

His theme is the plight of the individual trapped by his environment, the loneliness and lack of communication between human beings unable to reconcile the flesh with the spirit.

It was his special genius to temper extremes of physical violence, brutality and perversion with gentle, loving glimpses of humanity and a passionate concern for dispossessed people living on the borderline of despair.

Williams brought to the American theatre a highly poetic literary individuality. His plays are extended metaphors built on symbolic characterization to the point where there very structure is determined by the revelation of character.

His literary bent was always towards the symbolic and the mystical; more so in his female than his male characters. He said "My

chief aim in playwriting is the creation of character. I have always had a deep feeling for the mystery of life, and essentially my plays have been an effort to explore the beauty and meaning in the confusion of living."

Williams was an old-fashioned southern romantic who never made any kind of adjustment to the real world.

Like the characters he stylized out of existence, he exulted in a shadowy existence above a substantial one. "All work is autobiographical if it is serious. Everything a writer produces is sort of his inner history, transposed into another time."

Southern family

Williams was born in the South and descended from a long line of southerners. His fathers family were noted East Tennessee frontiersmen and Indian fighters. His father was a boisterous, strong-willed, man's man.

In decided contrast with his father's heritage, his mother's was gentle and patrician. Her family could trace their ancestry back to a ship's captain who crossed the English Channel with William the Conqueror.

Williams' mother, Edwina Dakin, was a beautiful, but prim and highly-strung minister's daughter, embodying the sterner traits of a puritan.

Basic to the work of Tennessee Williams is the confusion which results from the representativeness of southern Calvinism with its flash-denyng patterns of Puritanism on the romantic Cavaliers.

His enormous sense of guilt, the result of his youthful rebellion against his mother's Puritan code, never ceased to obsess him. Williams was in poor health most of life, suffered from alcoholism and had a series of nervous breakdowns from the age of 23.

But he was also blessed with a robust sense of humour and he once said "It is simply not in my nature as a dramatist to work without humour no matter how desperate may be the fates and situations of the protagonists."

An insider looks at the question of women and Islam

By Pamela Callaghan

NAILA MINAI author of "Women in Islam" is a Turkish bred, Berkeley educated journalist who commutes between East and West. She offers on original viewpoint on the issues that are absorbing modern women in both these hemispheres.

Minai is in a unique position to judge the progress of women's liberation both in her own family and her own culture and to compare developments in the East and the West.

She writes: "My Turkish Tartar grandmother was tutored at home, married a polygamous man, and has never discarded her head veil, even when travelling abroad, although she was too liberal to hide her face. My mother never wore the veil, studied in schools close to home, and settled down as a housewife in a monogamous marriage."

"I left my family as a teenager to study in the United States, where I hitchhiked from country to country during vacations."

The book begins with a synopsis of the Muslim religion, emphasising that Mohammed was helped and influenced by his wife in his life's work.

Minai challenges some of the assumptions that Westerners make about Muslim women, reminding us that they could own and keep property centuries before the right was given to Western women; that the family structure actually means Muslim women had more independence from their husbands—it was the duty of her father and brothers to protect her, so she could count on them to stick up for her.

Minai explains the tradition of chastity in women, which in many parts of the Muslim world even today is associated with family honour. She is frank about some of the more barbaric practices to enforce chastity, pointing out that among educated people these practices are happily dying out.

The different ways of life of Muslim women

from the cradle to the grave are detailed in the book with the help of anecdote, as well as statistics, and drawing on a rich cultural heritage. There are some interesting differences in development, for instance, most of the women's liberation movements in the Muslim world were connected to National Liberation movements.

Minai's own interpretation of Islam is compatible with modern development in women's rights and she backs this up with well chosen quotations. Today, particularly in the oil rich states of the Gulf, when Muslim women work—they tend to work for reasons other than financial necessity. University graduates are seldom asked if they can type.

Women in Islam by Naila Minai. London, John Murray Ltd.

The prophet Mohammed actually fought against some of the Middle Eastern traditions of the harem according to Minai. In his time polygamy was an improvement on concubinage.

The author gives us the background to some of the Middle Eastern female traditions, and points out the advantages as well as the disadvantages. Even in Saudi Arabia where there is sexual segregation, this very segregation can offer unique career opportunities.

She analyses the growing tide of fundamentalism, often accompanied by disillusion with Westernisation. Women who embrace fundamentalism often believe that in the West women have merely thrown over the old forms of repression and replaced them with new ones. Sexual restrictions have been replaced by sexual harassment, freedom has meant another form of slavery in the case of divorce, forced to earn her own living and bring up children single-handed.

The book is entertaining and a good read. I found on meeting the author that her personality lent more credence to her beliefs—they seemed to work for her.



Sana'a, home of the mud brick skyscraper

Sana'a: a unique Arab city

MORE THAN a dozen years of scholarship have culminated in the publication in London of a "magnum opus" on the city of Sana'a and its historical development.

Sana'a: An Arabian Islamic City is a definitive study of the city's unique combination of South Arabian "high rise" architecture, and Islamic culture.

The massive 632-page work has been prepared by a group of international scholars under the leadership of Robert Serjeant, retired professor of Arabic and director of Cambridge University's Middle East Centre, and Dr. Ronald Lewcock, a fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge.

The text of more than three-quarters of a million words, includes studies of the city's history from pre-Islamic times until the 1962 revolution, the geography and "innovative irrigation systems, city administration, map organisation, crafts, architecture, costume, dress and children's games."

The bulk of the work is devoted to a comprehensive survey of the city's highly distinctive South Arabian building style, including mosques, houses and markets.

It is illustrated with 110 colour and black and white plates, plus 180 architectural plans, drawings and maps.

With the edition limited to only 1,000 numbered copies at £95 (\$145) a place in the exorbitantly illustrated volume is obviously intended to decorate the coffee tables of those with only a casual interest in the Arab world.



Organizing our problems away

THERE was once a young woman who got married. Then she discovered that her husband drank heavily, so things didn't work out and they got divorced. She married again, but her second husband had the same fault as the first. Another divorce. Time rolled on. Finally she had divorced husband number six because he was alcoholic. In fact all her marriages had fallen apart for the same reason.

"What rotten luck," we might say, or, "It was her destiny to have an unhappy personal life." But a question comes to my mind. Why was it always the same problem? Couldn't she once have married someone who loved his work so much that he spent 18 and 20 hours daily at it, forgetting that he even had a wife, or one who went on long business trips too frequently, or a stingy miser, or a skirt-chaser.

By seeking divorce, she was trying to rid herself of the problem but this wasn't working because maybe she didn't recognise how she was getting into this problem situation over and over again.

None of us likes to have problems but there they are—rather large, long-lasting ones of the kind this woman had, little irritating ones like going to your garage in the morning to find your car has a puncture. Short term problems like having to wait for a telephone or bigger ones like how to finance your children's education, or how to cure your habitual television-watching that has been aggravated by the addition of a video unit with the multitude of cassette suppliers around.

We dream of a problem-free life but actually there is no such thing. Everyone has his or her own assortment of problems. So what should we do? We can't tackle them all at one time because we wouldn't get very far that way. And running away from them doesn't work either because they follow you or else you get worse ones instead.

The only thing left to do is to pick out one of them and ask yourself, "Do I want to keep this or do I try to get rid of it?" If it's a problem like spending all your free time in front of The Box, starting at endless videotapes, perhaps you'd like to keep it.

If you want to get rid of it you have to first define the area of the problem and all it entails. Then ask yourself how you came to have this problem—how did it happen? This is probably the most difficult part of the process because you have to be absolutely honest with yourself—no matter what you are telling others; ultimately you have to ask yourself just how much of your situation is in your direct control.

Then you have to sort out your thinking and formulate several ways or plans of solution. Sometimes writing it all out on a piece of paper—or as many as it takes—will help you to do this. Then you have to see what each plan would involve in resources—your time, your energy, your relationships with others, and money, too.

Pure speculation follows—what are all the consequences of this plan? Think hard and try to foresee it all. Go on to the next and speculate on this. After you've finished this process, go back and select the solution that seems to offer the most beneficial effects with the least unwanted consequences.

Then jump into action. Someone once said that a wrong decision is better than remaining in a state of indecision—sort of like running the motor of your car at full speed while you still have the brakes on...something is bound to burn.

Would you believe it?

A CANADIAN was arrested and charged with theft of mail after using a vacuum cleaner to retrieve his own letter from a mail posting box.

The 42-year-old man, whom police did not identify, told a judge in Winnipeg, Canada, that he wanted to retrieve his letter so he could delete the last paragraph he had written.

He claimed the local postmaster had given him permission to use the vacuum cleaner to retrieve the letter, which he said involved "a large sum of money I'd been dealing with."

However, after removing two letters from the mail box while searching for his own, the man was apprehended by police and charged.

After spending a night in jail, he was released. (WGT)

IN CALENA, Illinois, USA Tanya Hilbert is prepared to go to jail because of her love for weeds. Among the neatly trimmed lawns, her garden blooms with giant thistles and rag-weed. "I am a conifer-vegetarian and these weeds are natural to this area," she said. The neighbors think they are a mess. So does the local magistrate. If she doesn't pay a daily fine of \$200 until they are hacked down, she goes to jail. (WGT)

Italy cuts its gossips off

Michael Sheridan

ITALIANS ARE irate over a new charging system for telephone calls, introduced recently, which is robbing them of their freedom to gossip endlessly on local calls at a cost of next to nothing.

In the fashionable Cafe Canova on Rome's Piazza del Popolo, one elegant woman stopped cooling to her lover in mid-flow, stared in disbelief and rattled the phone furiously, raising more than one patron's eyebrows. She had been rudely cut off.

To anyone who has spent hours waiting outside one of Rome's few functioning phone booths while a deaf grandmother from Naples berates her in-laws or a love-sick teenager argues with his girlfriend's mother, the move is a boon.

To long-suffering staff at the Central Telephone Office, where the babel of chatter runs at a deafening pitch for almost 24 hours a day, it also looks like spelling relief.

But to thousands of Romans for whom the telephone is an instrument of love to be cradled on the shoulder throughout the working day, the new system is a disaster. Nothing is sacred—even calls to and from the Vatican City state will be charged at the full rate.

Villain of the piece is SIP, the Italian state phone company, which has imposed a time limit of local calls, less to make money than in despair at the nation's telephone junkies. "If people

use the phone rationally, they won't suffer. The only people to be penalised are those who chatter for hours, completely blocking the exchanges," a SIP spokesman said.

SIP says the charges are mild compared to those in other countries. The phone user is charged 100 lire (eight cents) for every six minutes of local conversation.

But to judge from the theatrical behaviour of many callers in the cafes and bars of Rome, this is a cruel blow.

In one corner bar, a burly man's tirade against his errant wife was reaching a climax worthy of the ancient Roman orator Cicero, who used to hold sway in the forum down the road.

The perforation was cut brutally short by the maddening beep-beep of the new electronics and the man slammed the phone down, speechless with frustration.

In public places, offices, business and homes, the move has obvious social implications. It is already political dynamite.

"A disaster, a persecution," lamented the leftist daily Repubblica, which always seems to be clutched under the arms of evening callers making lengthy theatre or cinema arrangements.

"I can't go and see mamma every day with the way the traffic is—half an hour on the phone is the least I can do to keep her company," an anguished reader told Rome's major paper Il Messaggero.



SIP has produced figures showing that Romans are the most long-winded talkers in the country, followed only by the Milanese in their addiction to the telephone.

In Rome and Milan, the first place where the new system applies, it is frequently easier to telephone abroad than to get a number streets away.

(Weekly Gulf Times)

Headache

I get headaches all the time. Is there anyway my illness can be cured?

First of all, a headache is not an illness but a symptom. It indicates that something is not right in the body and the pain you suffer is the body's way of bringing your attention to the matter.

A headache can be of many different types and have many different causes. It may indicate there is something wrong with your eyes, teeth, sinuses, throat or neck. Changes in your blood pressure in either direction, higher or lower, can precipitate a headache.

Or it may be a symptom of a disorder in other parts of the body, a muscle injury or damage to the nerves of the head. Perhaps it is the result of too much worrying over problems, or other types of stress that you are under, or the indication of an allergy.

You can do much to help the doctor find the cause, or underlying reason, for your headaches, by keeping a record of the following:

1. Frequency—how often do you have these headaches?
2. Length—how long do they last?
3. Duration—when did you have the first of these?
4. Have they been bothering you for days, weeks, or months?
5. Site—in what part of your head do they occur? Front, forehead, face, back of the head, left or right sides?
6. Quality of the pain—what sort of pain is it? A dull aching, a sharp stabbing pain, a throbbing?
7. Mode and time of onset—how does the headache start? Does it gradually build up or does it start suddenly? What time of day does it happen? In the morning, afternoon, or do you wake in the middle of the night with it? Do you get it after eating certain foods?
8. Associated features—does anything else happen when you have headaches? Do you see spots in front of your eyes, feel nauseated, have pains in other parts of your body? Do you eye water?
9. Precipitating factors—are there any things that you know to bring on an attack? Do you get one when you see

Health by Joyce Niles

your boss walk into the room? Relieving factors—Is there anything that makes your headache less or relieve it completely? Dimming the lights in the room, going out into the fresh air, or drinking a cup of coffee?

This information will help the doctor to determine the possible cause of your complaint. If necessary he or she might also do an x-ray or CT scan of the head to find if there are any irregularities in the blood supply to that area, or anything else of note.

All though you may find that you can buy pills from a pharmacy to get you over the pain, in the long term it is better to know just what is causing your attacks and to find a permanent solution to the problem. Sometimes willing for your headaches to disappear by themselves will not help you and it may make the doctors job more difficult when you finally do turn to him or her.

Joyce Niles is a member of the American Medical Writers Association.

Chinese egg rolls

Ingredients

- 450 g minced beef
- 1 medium onion
- 1 small turnip
- 175 g fresh bean sprouts (or 350 g frozen)
- 6 tablespoons soy sauce
- 225 g flour
- 2 eggs
- 600 ml water
- oil
- salt and pepper

Method

- Soften chopped onion in oil, add beef and brown.
- Drain off excess fat, add grated turnip, bean sprouts and soy sauce.
- Cook for five minutes.
- Cool mixture before filling pancakes.
- Make pancakes: sift flour and add eggs, water, salt and pepper and mix until smooth.
- Leave for half an hour if possible.
- Fry pancakes on one side only.
- Save a little of the mixture to use for sealing filled pancakes.
- When the mixture is cool, fill the pancakes, roll up and seal the ends with a little of the reserved pancake mixture.
- Deep fry the pancakes in hot oil and eat immediately.
- Makes 14 pancakes.

Chef's corner



The Alia Folk Dance Troupe takes Jordan to the Gulf

The Alia Folk Dance Troupe is off to the Gulf this week to take part in "Jordan Week" celebrations.

They will be visiting Dubai, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, performing in hotels and Jordanian Social Clubs.

The group was formed in 1980 to contribute to efforts being made to promote Jordan's cultural and tourism attractions abroad. It also provides a regular opportunity for

Alia employees and others who enjoy folk dancing as a hobby. The group practices regularly at the Haya Art Centre.

Now, half the group is composed of Alia employees and the rest are employed elsewhere or are students. In addition to the 24 performers who are visiting the Gulf, the group includes about 16 newcomers who are still preparing for public performances.

This week's trip is the third outside engagement for the group who have also performed in the Netherlands and France.

Their programme consists entirely of Jordanian songs and dances, performed in traditional costume from the different regions of the country, including Ramtha, Ma'an, and Adwan. The group will be taking their own musicians who play traditional instruments such as the flute, oud, tabla and rababa.

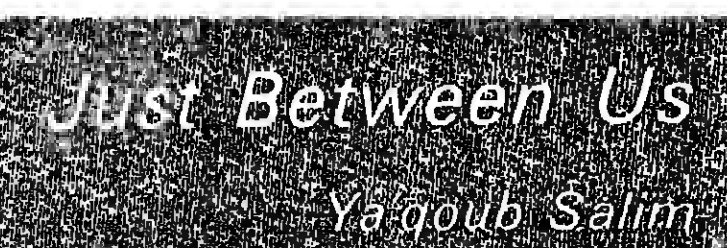
ON MONDAY evening Pack One of the Cub Scouts of Amman held their Annual Banquet at the American Community School.

Parents and families gathered to enjoy a meal prepared by hard-working Mums and the boys themselves in honour of the Scouting movement's 76th birthday.

Mr. Paul Churchill, Scoutmaster presented awards to more than half of the boys in the 32-strong pack, as parents proudly accompanied the award-winners to receive their badges.

The boys have to work hard to win these badges and the diversity of their talent was surprising. There were naturalists, engineers, artists and even showmen among these young Cub Scouts.

Amid the excitement and chaos between the men and the presenters, The Star spoke to Mrs. Pat Craven, who is one of the Don Mo-



Top of a pyramid

SOME OF the world's smartest and most powerful people haven't slept all week. And they'll sit up tonight, as well, fretting over the world oil price situation and threatened international financial chaos. But their problems seem minuscule in comparison to the shambles my own personal accounts have got into.

The experts fear that if the oil producers lose a lot of their income it could throw the world banking system out of kilter and all kinds of creditors could just kiss their money goodbye. This would be new for everybody involved in the world economy: not to mention the makers of "Dallas", who would have to do away with the wealthy Ewings completely.

Weighty problems, insoluble conundrums. But consider my case: I sympathize with those international financiers, because they just must deal with those problems—it's their job. But I fell into it through power of circumstance and sheer cello obliviousness. It all began when I needed to buy a car.

Unthinkable to put up the price in cash, of course. But all I wanted was a little car, and it could be handled. So I took a generous 500-dinar, interest-free loan from my employer and withdrew another 500 from my bank account. With a thousand-dinar deposit, it was easy to buy on time payment. And so I innocently started paying—they took JD 80 a month.

My wallet, only slightly sore from all the licensing, commissioning, registration and insurance fees for the new car, managed to keep up with it. Then my landlord came around, with an indisputable (he said) claim to JD 200 for water and electricity. I was about to tell him what he could do with his water and electricity—until I remembered how long he'd been saying "Never mind! We'll settle it later!"

So there went another JD 20 a month. I was now paying JD 150 each month just to keep up, on top of the new incoming utilities.

But I was satisfied. I might be kicking like the devil to keep my head above water—but at least I was breathing air. Then, I had a big break. An acquaintance offered me some part-time work that would bring my monthly income back up to standard, and I grabbed that would bring my monthly income back up to standard, and I grabbed it.

I was happy again, until I realised that the new job put me in a "higher tax bracket." It meant very little added net income, if any.

At this point a banking friend of mine, Peter, offered me a helping hand. He said he had observed that my debts were getting unworkable, and proposed to cover them all with a new financing instrument he could give me.

I grabbed at the chance. Just one more big loan and I'd be in good shape, I was sure. My friend took care of the deal. Then I was borrowing from Peter to pay Paul (my landlord's name is Paul), and too late I realised that Peter charges wicked interest.

Star classified section

For rent

• Three flats building, each consists of two apartments. Centrally heated with two telephones and big water reservoir, suitable for offices or school, occupied now by the International Baccalaureate School, behind Al Odeh Station. Ready after March 1, 1983 Tel. 72366

• Furnished apartment for rent 1. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, sitting, dining, deluxe kitchen and three glassed-in verandas. Centrally heated with telephone. Tel: Al Ali, Al Razl Housing Estate.

• New furnished apartment, located between 6th and 7th Circles, Jabal Amman. 2-3 bedrooms, deluxe furniture with all accommodation. Please call: 44090

Vacancies

• A large Turkish construction firm in Amman is looking for a typist, with a very good command of Arabic and English and preferably speaking Turkish or French. Anyone who is ambitious

enough should phone our office on Tel: No 666264 between 3 and 5 O'clock in afternoon.

• Wanted Young male or female to work in the field of publicity and advertisement applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- 1- General secondary certificate as a minimum level
- 2- Experience in this field not less than 1 year
- 3- Spoken and written English in preference
- 4- Applicants with private cars are preferred. Kindly contact Telephone 664131
- 5- General secondary certificate as a during work hours

JORDAN TELEVISION ENGINEERING ANNOUNCEMENT

Jordan Television is pleased to announce that the relay station at First Circle, transmitting the main channel (9) and foreign channel (11), will undergo the following changes, starting on Saturday 5th March, 1983.

1. Channel 11 will be taken out of service and replaced by channel 57, UHF band.
2. The main channel will be transmitting on channel 54, UHF band, in addition to the existing channel 9.

This new service, on the UHF channels, will start on Saturday 5th March, 1983, at 1500 hours.

Please note that the announcement concerns our viewers in the centre of Amman only, who used to receive the television signal from the Insurance Building at the First Circle.

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